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ISSUE 198

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EDITED BY TOM BROADBENT

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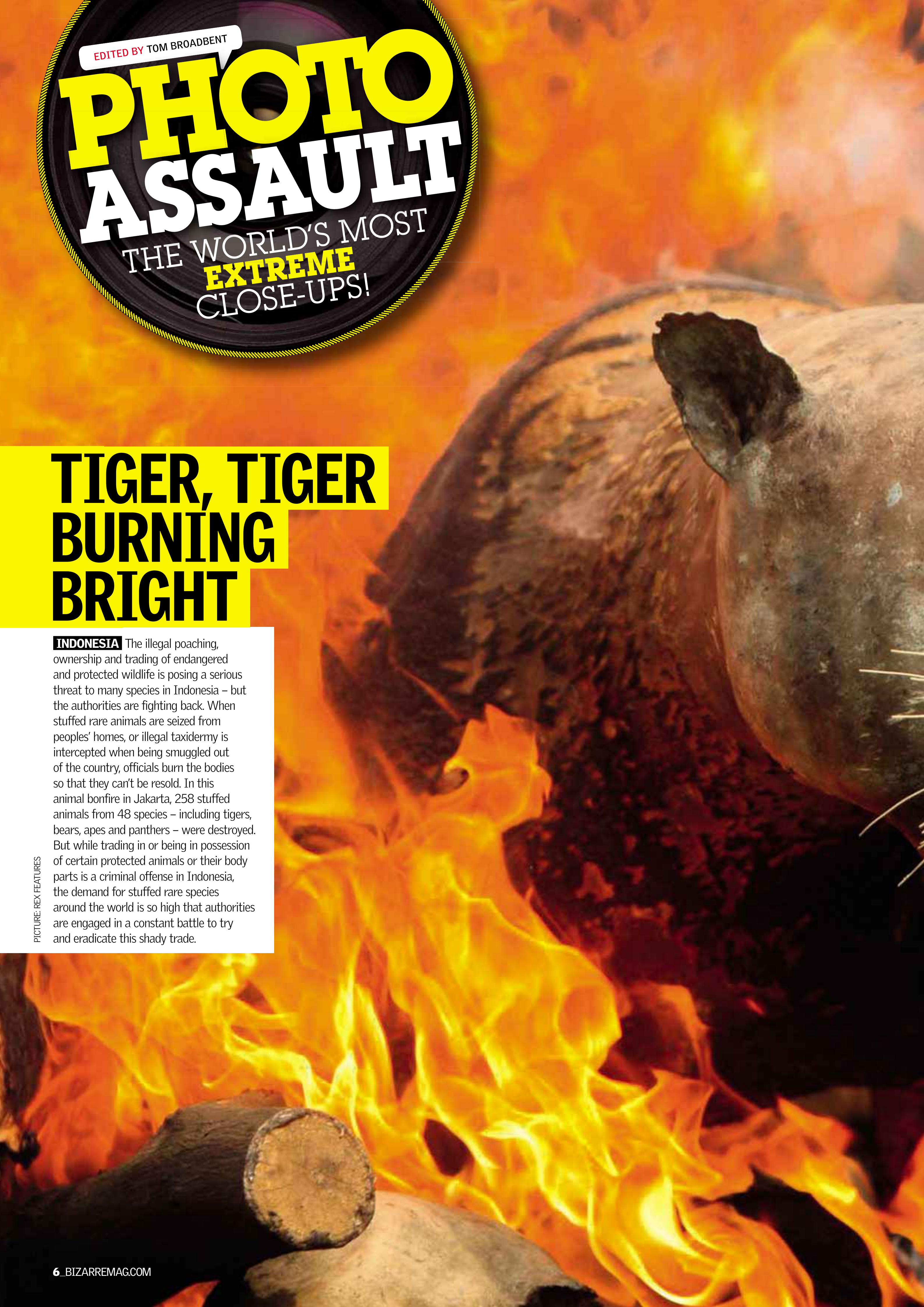
THE WORLD'S MOST **EXTREME** CLOSE-UPS!



TIGER, TIGER BURNING BRIGHT

INDONESIA The illegal poaching, ownership and trading of endangered and protected wildlife is posing a serious threat to many species in Indonesia – but the authorities are fighting back. When stuffed rare animals are seized from peoples' homes, or illegal taxidermy is intercepted when being smuggled out of the country, officials burn the bodies so that they can't be resold. In this animal bonfire in Jakarta, 258 stuffed animals from 48 species – including tigers, bears, apes and panthers – were destroyed. But while trading in or being in possession of certain protected animals or their body parts is a criminal offense in Indonesia, the demand for stuffed rare species around the world is so high that authorities are engaged in a constant battle to try and eradicate this shady trade.

PICTURE: REX FEATURES

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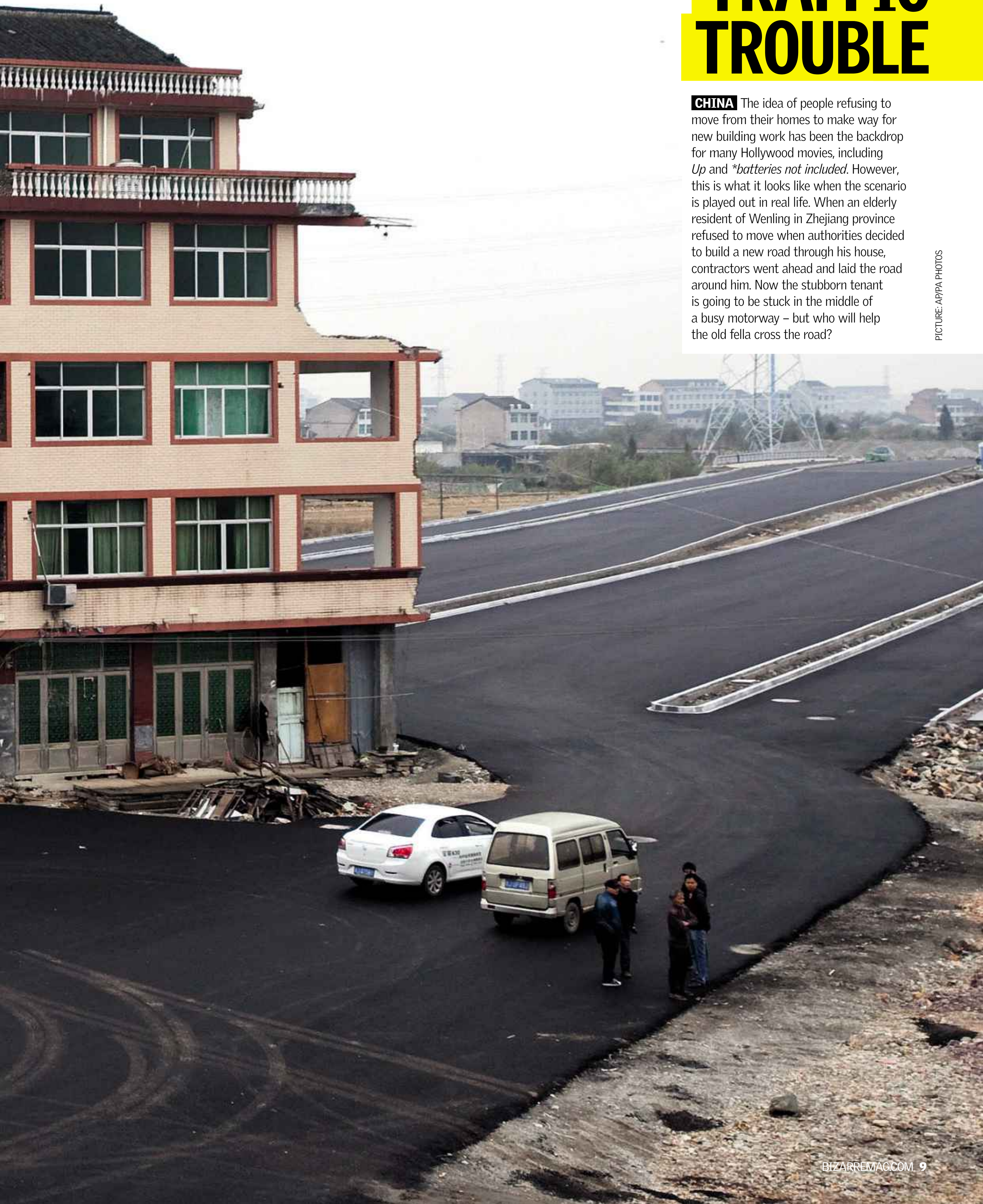
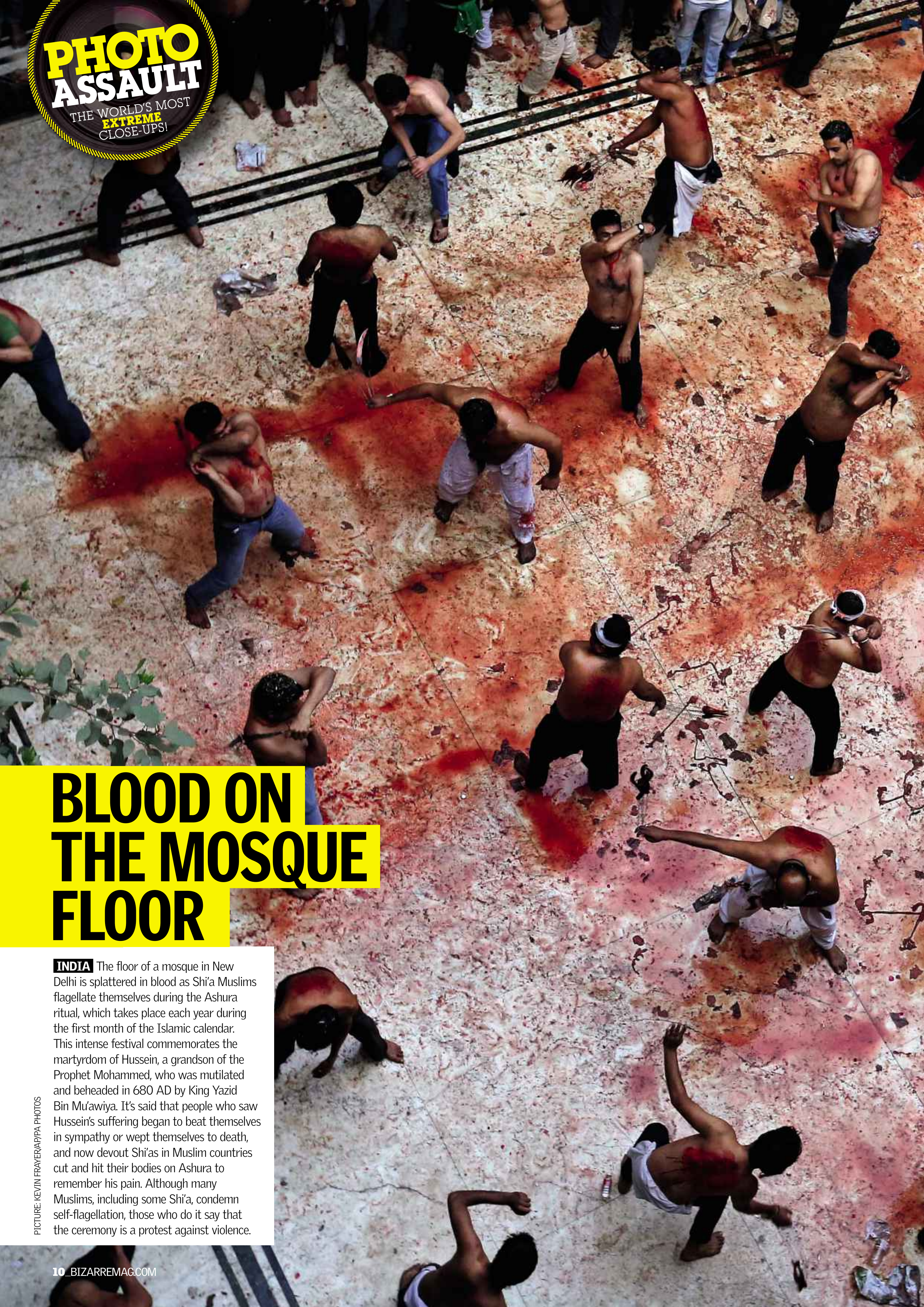
THE WORLD'S MOST **EXTREME** CLOSE-UPS!



TRAFFIC TROUBLE

CHINA The idea of people refusing to move from their homes to make way for new building work has been the backdrop for many Hollywood movies, including *Up* and **batteries not included*. However, this is what it looks like when the scenario is played out in real life. When an elderly resident of Wenling in Zhejiang province refused to move when authorities decided to build a new road through his house, contractors went ahead and laid the road around him. Now the stubborn tenant is going to be stuck in the middle of a busy motorway – but who will help the old fella cross the road?

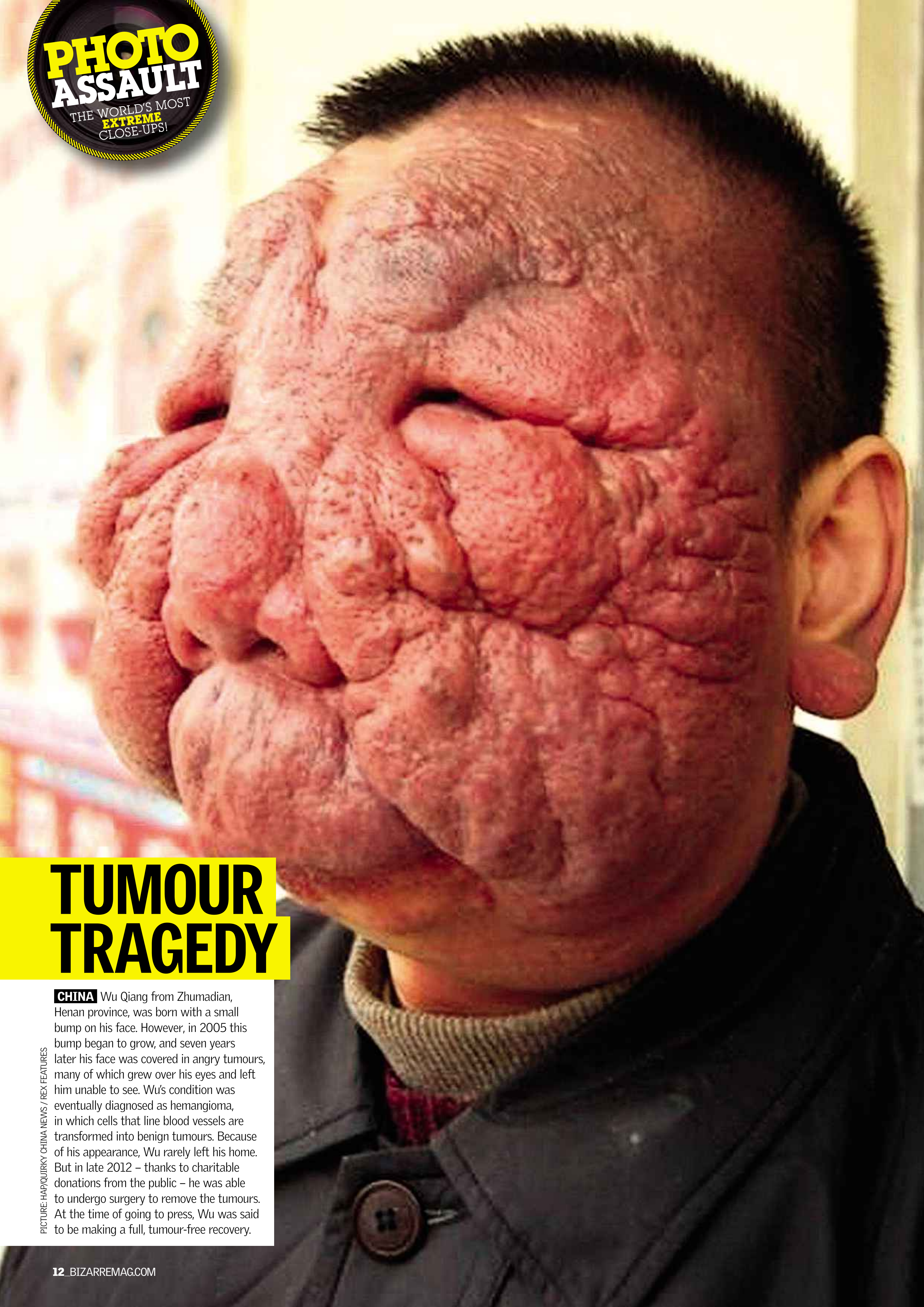
PICTURE: AP/PA PHOTOS



BLOOD ON THE MOSQUE FLOOR

INDIA The floor of a mosque in New Delhi is splattered in blood as Shi'a Muslims flagellate themselves during the Ashura ritual, which takes place each year during the first month of the Islamic calendar. This intense festival commemorates the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Mohammed, who was mutilated and beheaded in 680 AD by King Yazid Bin Mu'awiya. It's said that people who saw Hussein's suffering began to beat themselves in sympathy or wept themselves to death, and now devout Shi'as in Muslim countries cut and hit their bodies on Ashura to remember his pain. Although many Muslims, including some Shi'a, condemn self-flagellation, those who do it say that the ceremony is a protest against violence.

PICTURE: KEVIN FRAYER/AP/PA PHOTOS



TUMOUR TRAGEDY

CHINA Wu Qiang from Zhumadian, Henan province, was born with a small bump on his face. However, in 2005 this bump began to grow, and seven years later his face was covered in angry tumours, many of which grew over his eyes and left him unable to see. Wu's condition was eventually diagnosed as hemangioma, in which cells that line blood vessels are transformed into benign tumours. Because of his appearance, Wu rarely left his home. But in late 2012 – thanks to charitable donations from the public – he was able to undergo surgery to remove the tumours. At the time of going to press, Wu was said to be making a full, tumour-free recovery.

PICTURE: HAP/QUIRKY CHINA NEWS / REX FEATURES

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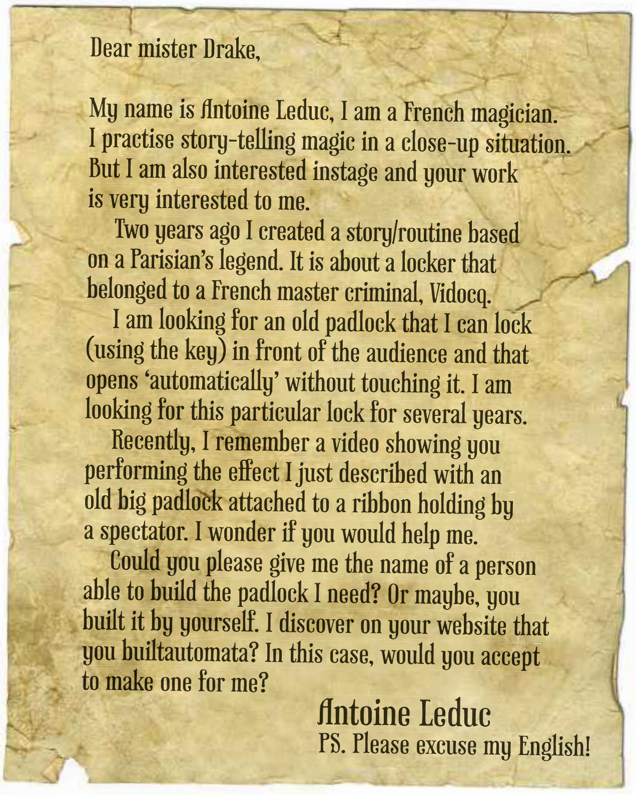
NOW THAT'S MAGIC!

Bizarre's favourite magician reveals his latest creation…



Dear mister Drake,

My name is Antoine Leduc, I am a French magician. I practise story-telling magic in a close-up situation. But I am also interested instage and your work is very interested to me.

Two years ago I created a story/routine based on a Parisian's legend. It is about a locker that belonged to a French master criminal, Vidocq.

I am looking for an old padlock that I can lock (using the key) in front of the audience and that opens 'automatically' without touching it. I am looking for this particular lock for several years.

Recently, I remember a video showing you performing the effect I just described with an old big padlock attached to a ribbon holding by a spectator. I wonder if you would help me.

Could you please give me the name of a person able to build the padlock I need? Or maybe, you built it by yourself. I discover on your website that you builtautomata? In this case, would you accept to make one for me?

Antoine Leduc

PS. Please excuse my English!

WHEN SIMON DRAKE – *BIZARRE*'S favourite magician, the brains behind Channel 4's groundbreaking TV show *The Secret Cabaret* and owner of London's most decadent venue, The House Of Magic – received this mysterious letter (left), his creative juices began to flow…

Although Drake has conceptualised and built countless illusions and automata, it's been a while since the magic legend descended into his secret lab to build something new and exciting from scratch. But, as he tells *Bizarre*, this unexpected letter inspired him to get busy with his magical tools, and labour through the night to build an incredible trick that *you* can own.

What was it about this letter that inspired you to take this commission and make the lock?

I receive many requests from people to make stuff or sell effects, but this one was different – it was intriguing, and the idea of creating a trick I had no idea how to make was a challenge. Also, it's a good effect, and I wanted one for myself!

Tell us more about the history of Vidocq, who's mentioned in the letter.

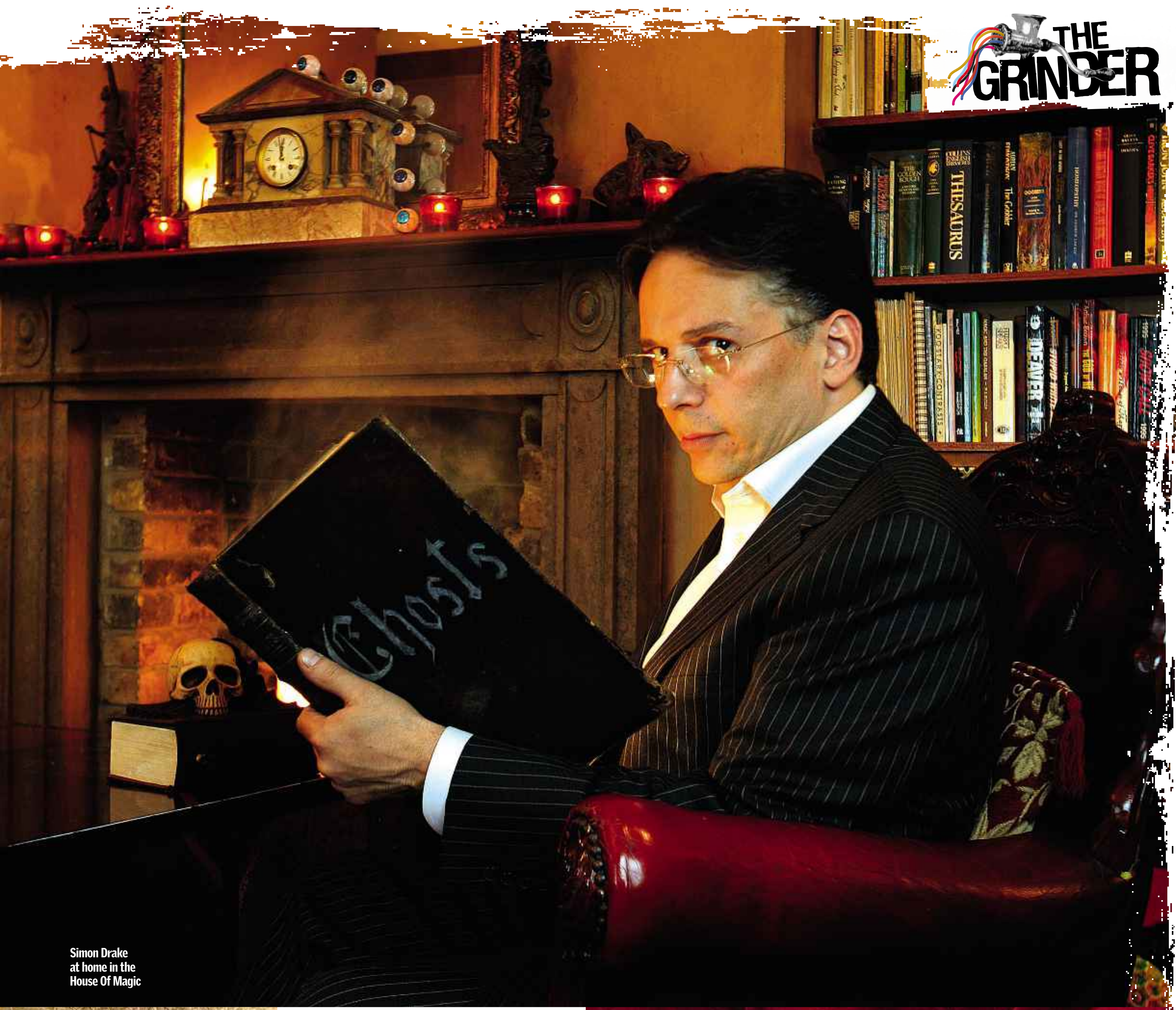
All I know is that he was a master criminal who could steal anything. He also dabbled in the occult. Towards the end of his life, he acted as a consultant to the Prefecture of Police in Paris. Perhaps they made him an offer he couldn't refuse, but my guess is that he made a deal with the cops, rather than face dying in prison.

Did you spend a long time in your secret lab working on this exciting project?

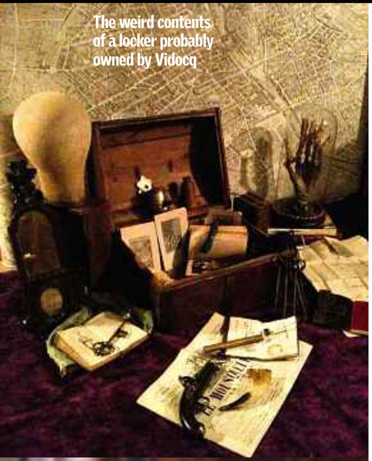
Once I'd decided to make the first padlock it took me seven days, at about 10 hours a day, to make a working prototype. It was a nightmare, and about halfway through the process I really didn't think I could manage it. But I persevered and got there in the end. There's absolutely no radio control or anything electric in the mechanism. It's made traditionally, the hard way, so it will last forever if looked after. Don't you get pissed off at how pretty much everything electrical is made to fail after the guarantee period expires? Well, my lock won't do that annoying old bollocks!

We understand that you're going to sell the lock to magic aficionados – tell us more…

Yes, it worked out so well that I decided to make a limited run of 100 and make them



Simon Drake at home in the House Of Magic



The weird contents of a locker probably owned by Vidocq

Look, no hands! The lock magically opens

available to magic collectors and professionals internationally. There's a heap of work that goes into each one, so it wont be cheap, and people will have to answer a few questions to prove they have arcane magic knowledge before I will let them have one. Antoine will be the first to be offered one, of course.

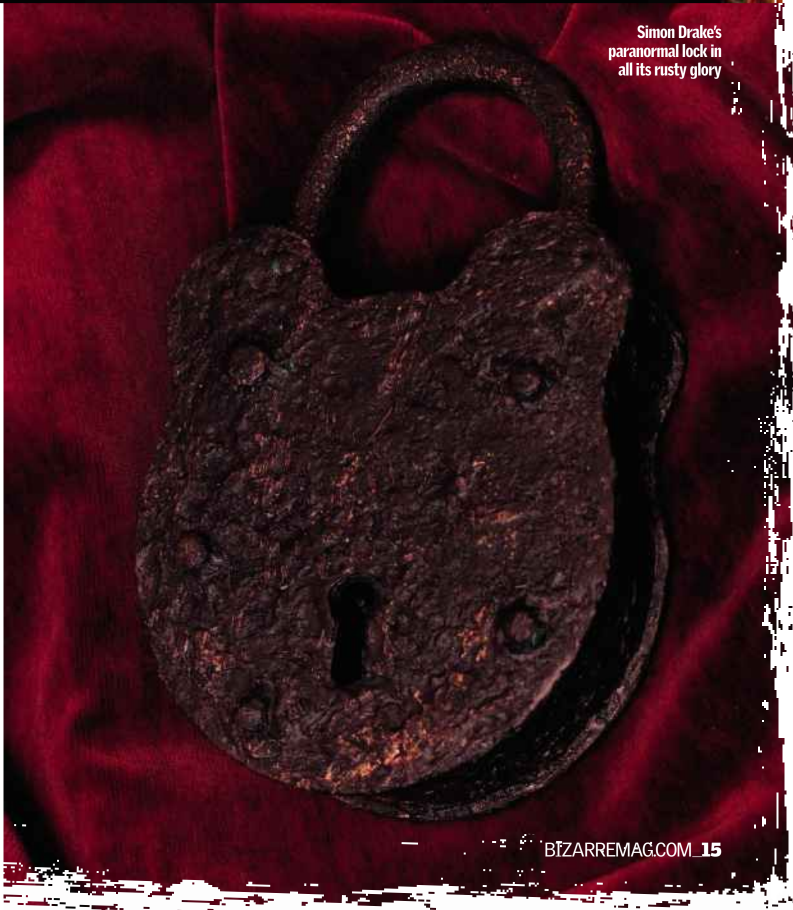
Now that you've built this lock, are you planning to build any other illusions that the public can buy?

Not right now, no. And even though I have made hundreds of illusions, this is the first I have made available to others. However, I just bought one of the best new cameras for shooting film, the amazing Canon 5D Mark III – and after being run a merry dance for long enough by TV producers, I'm now planning to make a surreal TV show myself from the House Of Magic.

What other plans do you have for 2013, new tricks and the House Of Magic?

Well, with only about 20 padlocks made to date, myself and my team of horny midgets will have our work cut out making 100 of 'em!

To find out more, visit Houseofmagic.co.uk. You can also see a short video of the lock by searching YouTube for 'Simon Drake' and 'paranormal lock'



Simon Drake's paranormal lock in all its rusty glory

A DECADE OF DECADENCE!

Leeds legends celebrate 10 years in the music biz

WE *LOVE* ZEITGEIST ZERO. DESPITE never having a manager or booking agent, the Leeds goth rockers – whose decadent, sleazy blend of electronica, grinding guitars and passionate vocals regularly rip-up dancefloors at alternative clubs around the country – have carved themselves a niche on the British live circuit, and have also wowed fans in venues across Europe.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the formation of Zeitgeist Zero, which is the perfect excuse for us to have a chat with the band's sultry singer, Teresa Dead. (And show you a kinky picture from her recent fetishistic photoshoot, of course...)

What are you planning to do in 2013 to celebrate the band's anniversary?
This year we'll play our '10th Anniversary Tour', and we'll be holding a big celebratory show in our hometown of Leeds, where it all began in 2003. We're also working on our third album.

What have been your highlights of your decade in music?
Playing the Wave Gotik Treffen gothic festival in Germany, and the Whitby Gothic Weekend in the UK. We were also pleasantly surprised when Germany's *Dark Spy Magazine* twice voted our CDs 'Album Of The Month'. We came top over larger signed bands that we respect, which gave us a great sense of accomplishment.

You always say that you play shows, rather than gigs. What do you do on stage to keep audiences coming back for more?
We view each live show as a date – and seducing the audience is our goal. Every detail is considered, from the way we dress the stage, right through to how we present ourselves. For our 'Blackout Tour' we had a retro blitz era theme. We had back projection featuring footage of doodlebugs and sirens, barrage balloons, gas masks, barbed wire and our own custom built lights. We perform with a passion and energy that's infectious, and we've built up a good, live reputation by word of mouth.

You've always operated outside the mainstream. Can you tell us more about this unique approach?
This is out of necessity rather than design. We're certainly underdogs, but we've built up a loyal fan base. We've persevered and worked hard for every release, every show played and every fan won. While commercial success would be welcome, our main drive is to express ourselves. Our catalogue may not have brought us instant success, but our fans love the diversity and we have always created the music we want to. Lack of label support has never stopped us from pursuing our music career. But every artist can benefit from funding and wider exposure. We have big ideas and could do much more with the right support.

Goth music, although it has a loyal following, is regarded by most music mags and websites as a joke – does this get your goat?
Instead of the long-running worldwide subculture and aesthetic style that it is, goth culture is misrepresented as a miserable teenage phase, or full of evil Satanists. My personal experience of the goth scene has been some of the best times with some of the most stylish, creative, intelligent and fun people I've ever met. Despite being ignored or ridiculed by the UK mainstream (there is no 'goth' genre on iTunes) it has still endured. I checked the 'UK Live Music Group Map of Great British Festivals' for Whitby Gothic Weekend, which is now in its 19th year, but it wasn't mentioned! Goth isn't defined by a single musical style – anything from rock to techno, pop to opera, can all fall into that genre. It's more defined by its aesthetics and dark undertones.

Tell us about your new photos... they're pretty kinky!
I wanted a look that was more playful and seductive, more saucy than slutty. The group shot sums up an aesthetic mix of beauty and grotesque. It's kind of unnerving.

What other plans does Zeitgeist Zero have for the future?
To keep up the intensity and hard work of the last 10 years!

Find out more about the band at Zeitgeistzero.com

PICTURES: ED FIELDING (GROUP SHOT, LEFT); BRENDAN HOPKINS-PORTFOLIO STUDIOS (ABOVE)

FULL THROTTLE VIXENS!

Hot new calendar raises money for a good cause

PICTURES: JUSTINE LOUISE SUTTON (JUSTINE-LOUISE.CO.UK)
VERY LUCK BIKE SUPPLIED BY JONSBIKES.COM

SOME OF THE UK'S HOTTEST ALT.MODELS have appeared in a charity calendar to raise money for the The Sophie Lancaster Foundation.

The unofficial Sophie Lancaster *Full Throttle Vixens* calendar features a red-hot selection of girls that reads like a who's who of British alt.modelling talent, including Kate Lomax, Fae Raven, Kimberley Ann, Nancy Roxx, Dolly Diamond, Ruby True, Amie Conradine, Iska Ithill, Whiplash, Violet Raven, Hayley Leggs and Violet Eyes.

The luscious calendar, shot by Justine-Louise Photography, is A4 size and costs only £8. All profits will be donated to The Sophie Lancaster Foundation, which aims to challenge prejudice and intolerance towards people from alternative subcultures, and to campaign to have the UK Hate Crime legislation extended to include people from alternative subcultures, lifestyle and dress. To buy the calendar, take a trip to Justinelouisephotography.bigcartel.com

Six pages of the sexiest alt.models, freakiest art and best body mods!

HOTSHOTS >GIRLS

A WHOLE BOWL OF CYRIL

Bizarre gets an exclusive advance look at Cyril Helnwein's latest photography project, which combines puns and bums, banter and bappery, spoofing and spaffing…

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'Holy Shit':
Frankie Dashwood

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'Beyond the Pale': Esmé Bianco

Shooting weddings is usually a task photographers undertake in order to fund more creative projects; few snappers relish the challenge of standing outside a church in drizzly Bolton, trying to capture an image that isn't spoiled by a grouchy-arsed mother-in-law who's hunched like a horse riding a tricycle and pulling a face like Danny Trejo opening a parking fine while straining on the boglin. *Bizarre* daresay that being the official photographer for Marilyn Manson and Dita Von Teese's ceremony might be more fun. "The couple invited me to document their big day in Ireland, back when they got hitched in 2005," says camera captain, Cyril Helnwein. "Unfortunately, I had to decline as my first child was due to arrive at the same time."

WORDS **ALIX FOX**

PHOTOS **ALL IMAGES COPYRIGHT CYRIL HELNWEIN**

The son of renowned artist Gottfried Helnwein, Helnwein junior is married to Irish model, Kojii, who he met while composing a series of ghostly images entitled *Ethereal* 15 years ago. The resulting exhibition ended up being hosted by Jason *My Name Is Earl* Lee, and attended by the likes of Mila Kunis, Lisa-Marie Presley and Ashton Kutcher. And despite once dropping £2,400 worth of equipment into a waterfall while photographing a nude model splish-splashing about – "I had three cameras round my neck, and when switching between them I forgot to check the straps were secure..." – Helnwein's gone from strength to strength ever since.

The shutterbug's latest collection of photographs won't be launched for at least six months, but we wangled a treat peep for *Bizarre* readers. With titles such as 'Crying Over Spilt Milk' (showing a man bawling while being squirted in the eye by a woman's breast milk) and 'Cock Tease' (in which alt. supermodel Ulorin Vex poses with a real live rooster perched atop her bare arse), each shot is a visual pun, a play on words, inspired by Helnwein's love of language. "A favourite term I've recently discovered is 'tarzanelli', which literally translates as 'little tarzan', but refers to a little ball of dried shit dangling from an anal hair, as though swinging from a jungle vine!" he laughs.

Helnwein will be exhibiting in Vienna this summer, and shooting in the Far East. To find out more – including opportunities to get involved – head to Cyrilhelnwein.com

'Cock Tease': Ulorin Vex

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'Cream Of The Crop': Tolu Omoyele

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CLOUD KUKULA-ND

Raised amongst Holocaust survivors in Israel, Kukula's artwork combines sugary fairy tale fantasy with real-life fears, foes and frights

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PICTURES **ALL COPYRIGHT KUKULA**

"There was only one bland, Polish-Jewish restaurant in the tiny countryside village where I grew up in the 1980s... and it was named 'Restaurant', which just about sums up how basic things were," says Nataly Abramovitch, AKA artist Kukula, recalling her childhood in Karkur, about an hour north of Tel Aviv, Israel. "My school was a tiny agricultural college, and although the few kids there were nice enough, they didn't take to me – my husband thinks it's because I was born 'naturally spoiled'!" As a result, her only friends (apart from imaginary ones) were the handful of pensioners who were Kukula's neighbours, many of them Jews who had witnessed the Holocaust and would tell her horrifying stories of World War II. Both overt and subtle references to these tales of terror can be spotted in her paintings: ostensibly candy-cute creations which, upon further examination, reveal themes as grave and deep as a 6ft hole in the soil.

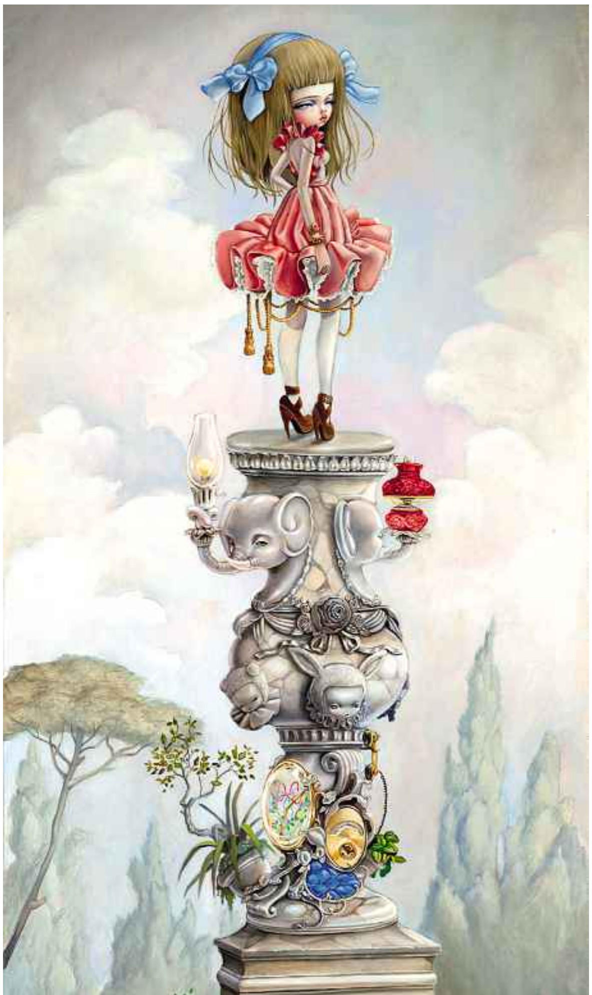
THE INFANT-OM OF THE OPERA (INSIDE YOUR MIND)

When Kukula's OAP pals took their afternoon naps, the youngster would watch Karkur's single television station, The Educational Channel, and the ballet, opera and anime she saw there still influence her canvases today. "I used to record everything – I mean *everything* – and I've held on to hordes of my VCR tapes," she says. "Even in recent weeks, I've found my work being inspired by the opera 'The Barber Of Seville' and the ballet piece 'Coppélia', in addition to retro Barbie dolls, Care Bears, and sweets." Although she's now based in San Francisco, the artist often watches BBC mini series while painting and sketching, or Skypes with her current-day best friend in Israel, so she remains very much connected with and affected by the experiences and habits she had when she lived in her hometown. Karkur and Kukula are inseparable in that respect.

SEEING STARS AND STRIPES

America has had a big impact on Kukula's art too, however – not least by introducing her to Jan Corey-Helford and Bruce Helford, of California's Corey Helford Gallery: this being an exhibition space celebrated as *the* hot spot to see pieces by lowbrow royalty, plus carefully selected newcomers who almost always go on to make it XXXL jeez-we're-gonna-need-more-spandex big. Get yourself on those walls, and your popularity as an artist is likely to go through the roof. Kukula has exhibited there twice (along with Natalie Shau – see *Bizarre 193*), and will hold a solo show there this June to coincide with the launch of her new book.

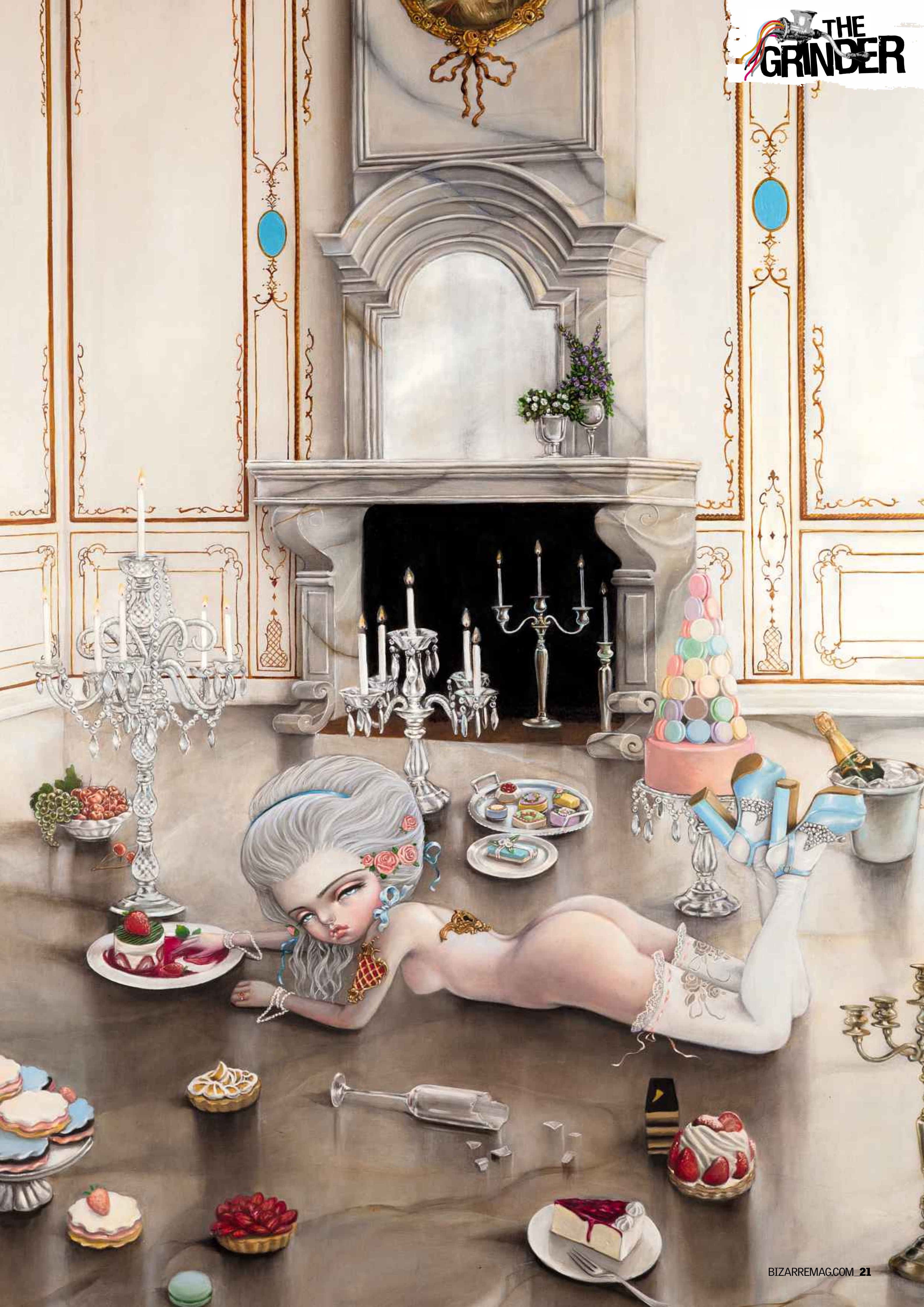
> "Digital art can be ecstatically amazing and perfect. I love it"



"Jan and Bruce have changed my life in many ways," she gushes. "Theirs is the only gallery that has demanded I produce better work, offering constructive criticism without cruelty and encouraging me to be myself. Since meeting them, every show I put on feels like I'm moving forward and producing material that's more and more 'me'."

The method to Kukula's 'more me' madness involves first using Photoshop to put together "really drafty" (sketchy, not emitting a chilly breeze, although you never know...) compositions, which are then drawn in detail onto board. A light wash of under paint in blue ink is added, before wafer-thin layers of oil paint are built up. Kukula tends to work on several paintings at once, returning back to each after leaving it to sit for a few weeks, so she can view it with fresh eyes and see what aspects may need tweaking. She admits that computers are incredibly useful in the initial development of her images, but says she'll never entirely switch the paint palette for the touchpad: "Digital art can be ecstatically amazing and perfect, and I love it when artists create pictures that simply wouldn't be possible with conventional brushes; that said, it irritates me when computer-made work has been manipulated to look like it contains brushstrokes or smudges, because if you want a painterly effect, I believe you should simply paint!" *Bizarre* agrees: if you want authentic effects, use authentic materials. Old school is cool. And this gal just made it 'kula.

For news and free downloadable stationary, visit Kukulaland.com. The last letter Kukula herself wrote? "It was probably to my first boyfriend to express what an utter jerk he was."



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Welcome to the world, baby Oscar! Having just given birth, extreme body mod performance artist Alicja Wrona tells *Bizarre* about her experiences of pregnancy, labour and new motherhood as a heavily modified momma.

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PHOTOS **STELLA MORAIS**

Alicja Wrona (Ala for short) is no stranger to pain. As a member of Samppa Von Cyborg's hardcore gore circus troupe, the Psycho Cyborgs, she's had nails hammered into her skull, her eyes and lips sewn closed, and her tits skewered with a huge metal spike, which was then attached to an electric drill in order to twist them around. As seen in the music video for The Wildhearts' track 'Destroy', she's also had her stomach sliced open, the wound violently fingered, and objects such as a silicone embryo inserted into the hole. Around a year ago, though, Ala was blessed to have a real foetus begin to grow inside her, and she and partner Roo were introduced to their much-loved new son Oscar when he was born on 18 November 2012. But did the agony she suffers on stage prepare Ala in any way for the torture of labour?

HARD LABOUR

"Giving birth was the most challenging experience of my life so far!" laughs Ala. She was determined to deliver Oscar in a birthing pool without drugs – not even a paracetamol – and managed to achieve her aim despite the process lasting over 30 hours. "I wanted to let my body do as nature intended, and feel every single jolt and sensation," she says. "Weirdly, I did find that it helped to get Roo to punch my lower back as hard as he could with each contraction. His arms felt like jelly by the end!"

Ala discovered that the pain she feels when on stage is very different to the pain of birthing a child: "The discomfort I've subjected myself to in the name of art isn't comparable with the feelings I went through during labour," she muses. "Pain during performance is something I've been experimenting with for years, to the point where nowadays I'm able to have fun with it; I know what to expect from my body in reaction to different wounds. Childbirth is entirely different: it feels like each of your cells is being stretched and ripped apart, and every fibre of your being, right down to the tiniest eyelash, is working to give your baby life. It's intense and magical, and I don't think anything – not extreme performance, nor official breathing exercises – could have prepared me for the emotions and sensations that coursed through me. After nine months of nurturing him inside me, I'd have been disappointed if Oscar slipped out without any effort, anyway!"

JOURNEY TO THE PLACENTA OF THE EARTH

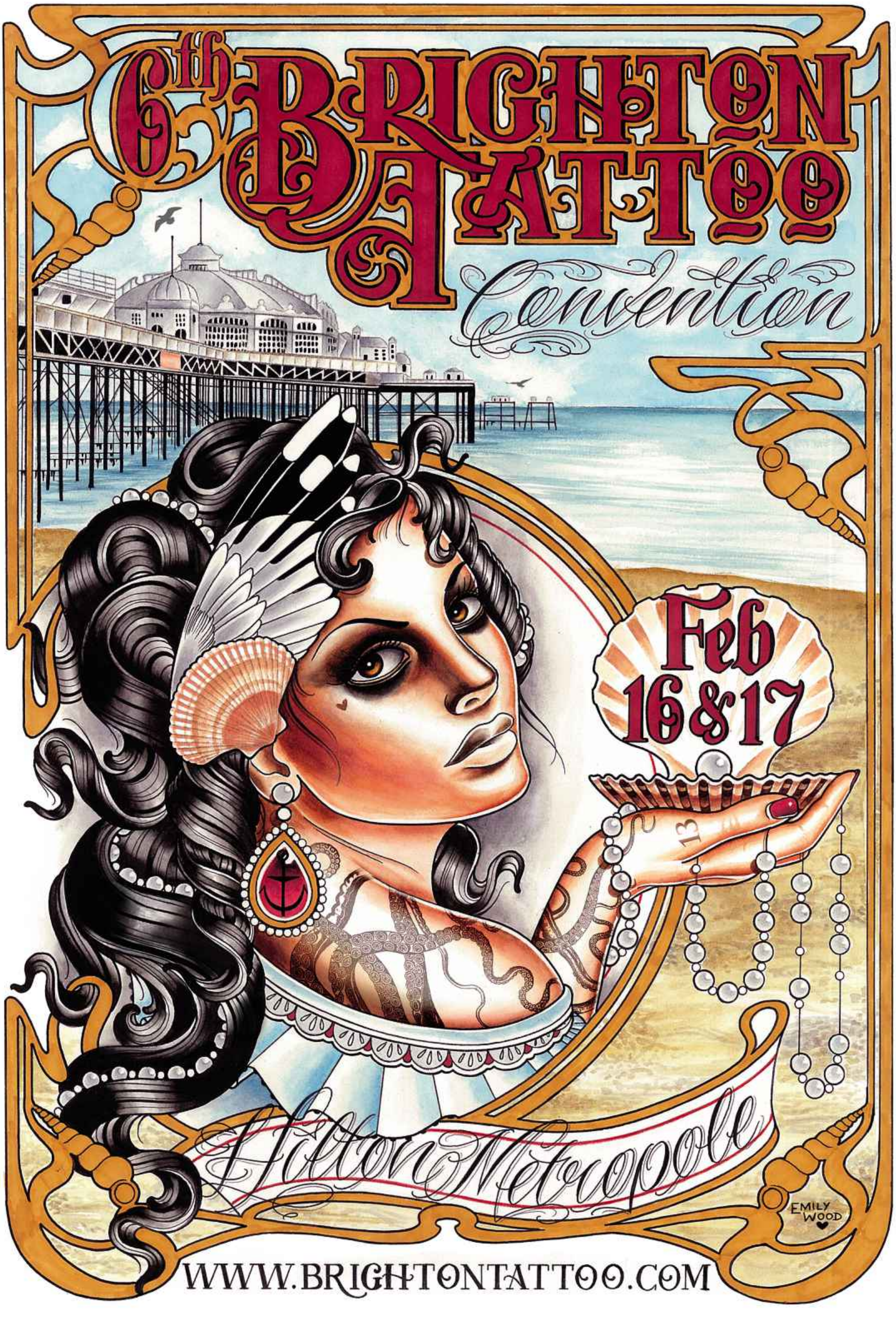
Ala is breastfeeding Oscar, and states that, although her boobs contain a lot of scar tissue due to her tit skewering adventures, this hasn't caused any problems for her or the baba. She's taken out her nipple piercings so that they "don't hurt the gorgeous man mouth of the little mammary monster", and she and Roo have prepared another tasty treat for him later in life: a capsule full of Ala's own dried placenta. "Placenta is incredibly nutritious," the mega mama advises. "We took my placenta home from the hospital, chopped it up and liquidised a chunk of it into a berry smoothie which Roo and I drank. I'd love to say it tasted like aardvark but, really, we couldn't detect the flavour at all, despite us both being vegan! The rest we dried (along with Oscar's umbilical cord, in a heart shape), ground up, and put into capsules that I take daily. And, yes, I'm saving a couple for Oscar to swallow if he wants to when he's old enough to understand." Ala reports that the placenta pills have helped her to heal after labour, and lifted her mood. She's had mixed reactions to her actions from friends, which she says she "finds odd, given that it's such a natural and traditional practice, that a large majority of the animal kingdom also partake in".

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

Speaking of reactions, Ala got quite a few comments from hospital staff regarding her piercings, modifications and other marks on her body. Thankfully, these were positive in the most part, though there were occasions when she'd rather have focused on healthcare rather than answering nurses' questions about clitoral hood jewellery: "Now and again my mods, genital or otherwise, were brought up by the midwife or doctor unnecessarily," she reflects. "This lead to a rather odd atmosphere as I lay there with four lubed-up fingers in my fanny, having to explain the finer points of pussy piercings, with my baby's heartbeat echoing in the background. Pregnancy was a beautiful time, but it's a shame that it was marred by inappropriate comments from some medical staff when their job should have been to concentrate on me and my baby."

Oscar's parents plan to honour his birth by getting tattoos, although they're both waiting until Ala's stopped breastfeeding before they get inked. "My boy is a ravenous little mite who's highly proficient in booby sucking though," smiles Ala, "so we may be some time!"

ALA SIPS ON A BERRY AND PLACENTA SMOOTHIE!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TATTOO TEASE!

Red-hot Ultra Vixen Luna Sangre flashes her killer ink! **p42**

PLUS!

Junk Mail
Your letters and photos!

Your Body Art
Your ink'n'iron!

Readers' Art
Your deranged doodles!

PICTURE: ROSS COSTIGAN

RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot! **Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!**

BIZARRE Junk mail

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EDITED BY MANDATRON
MANDATRON@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

SEND US YOUR STUFF!

ROGER THAT!

Dear *Bizarre*. Umm... I must confess something! (You're all pervs, so I'm sure you will understand.) When I saw Rachel Roger's school skirt aloft revealing her meaty, juicy derriere and her heart-patterned panties in *Bizarre 196*, I transformed into a testosterone sexual beast with a hard-on harder than Van Damme, Stallone, Schwarzenegger and the Hulk set in concrete. In order to cure this, I spanked my monkey as if I was going to have my hands chopped off for stealing a *Bizarre* magazine. Sorry, Rachel, it had to be done – you've got a mighty fine booty!

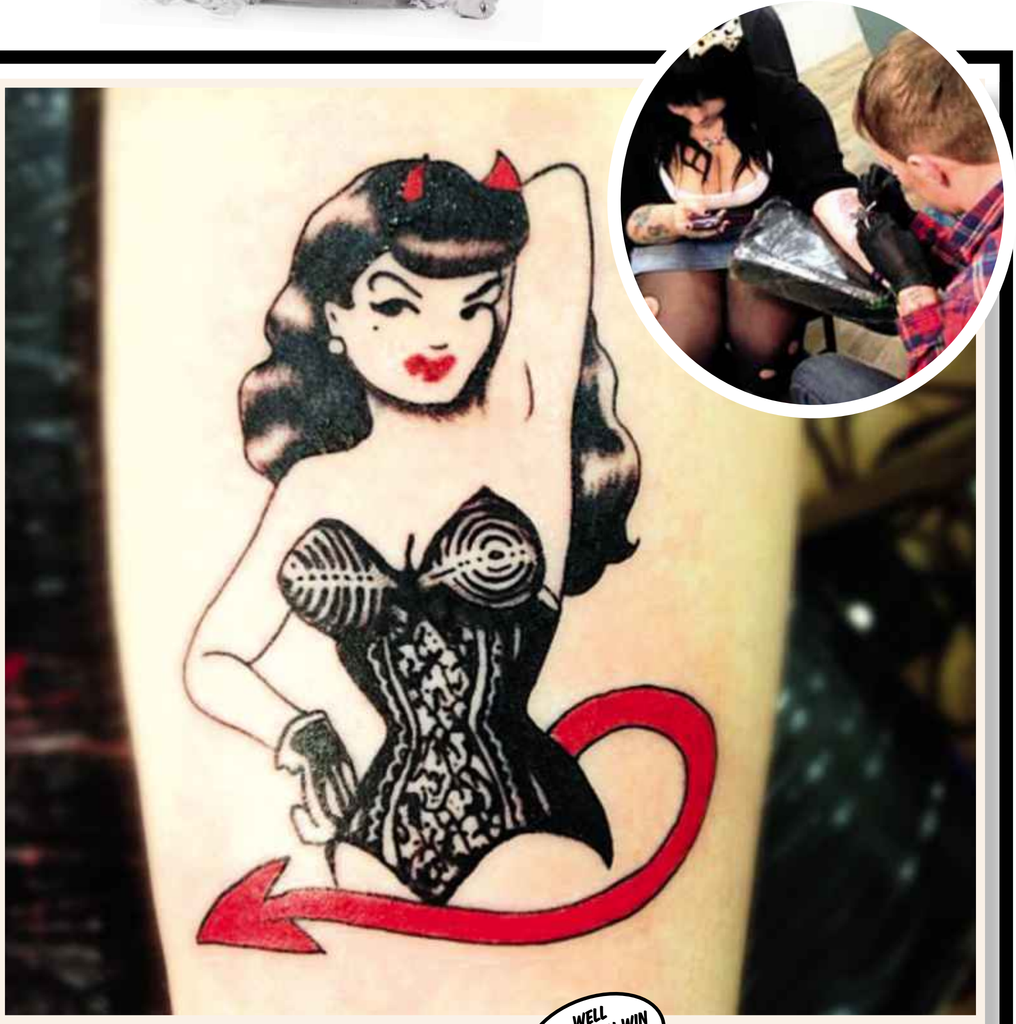
Darren W, via email

LAGER, LAGER, LAGER!

I thought I'd send you this picture of the Special Brew tower me and my mate built (below). It is constructed from over 500 cans and was built (and drank) by two people over two months, buying four beers at a time. We both have full-time jobs; I'm a chef in a celebrity kitchen and my housemate, Ben, is a manager of a leading national bank. BIG UP THE BREW! Lots of love, and keep up the good work.

Dan, Portsmouth

Mandatron says: **Err... drink responsibly, kids!**



Dumpstar!

WELL DONE! YOU WIN NOTHING!

ULTRA VIXEN INK

Check it out, *Bizarre*! I had the Ultra Vixens logo inked on my left arm! I decided to get this tattooed because I love being a part of the Ultra Vixens community. I'm a curvy model and have often found that other modelling sites don't give you a fair chance to make yourself known, but UltraVixens.net does – I feel like I'm famous because I have 'fans' on the site!

I particularly like using Live Chat to talk with my fans – it's a great way to earn some money, and I've actually made some good friends with a few of the guy members on the site. They don't complain when I misbehave or show my body off! It's helped me organise quite a few new shoots as photographers recognise the site and are keen to shoot with alt. models that are a part of *Bizarre*. I was even crowned 'Ultra Vixen Of The Week' at the beginning of November, which was amazing – I couldn't believe it!

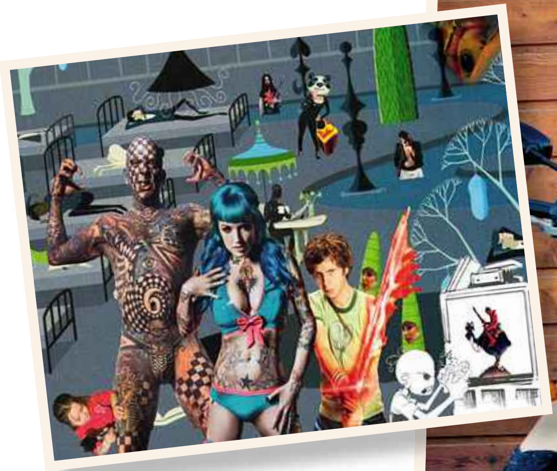
My tattooist was Chris Burwin who owns a brilliant studio called Alchemy Tattoo in Wigan. I was quite shy when I first walked in the shop, but now I feel like they are another family of mine. They have such talented artists there, and hopefully I will be a body piercer there soon. The tattoo took about an hour to complete – and, yes, it did sting a little! I took a Mars bar along with me and I had a nice cup of tea to keep my sugar levels up, so that I wouldn't pass out.

I hope that aspiring models who may not have the confidence to sign up at Ultra Vixens will find the courage to do so! Unlike other sites, you don't have to upload lots of professional pictures or a full photoshoot of images.

Being an Ultra Vixen has helped me gain a lot of confidence, and you never know – one day you might see me on the cover of *Bizarre*!

Serena Valentine, Wigan

Mandatron says: **See Serena's profile and book a Live Chat slot at Ultravixens.net/venus-doom**



CULTURE CLUB

I had an assignment to create an original digital image with the subject being a commentary on contemporary culture. It could comprise of images or text, or a combination of both, using at least five separate scanned sources. All sources were to be scanned and not taken from the internet, and had to be taken from popular (or unpopular) culture. We were only allowed to cut out, arrange, rotate and re-size the scanned images. The use of filters, paint tools, text tools, etc. was restricted, and no description or statement about the piece was allowed to be included.

I used a number of images from past issues of *Bizarre* (above) and I received an 80 per cent mark. My professor stated that "the technical execution is great", and that my "selections are clean and [the] image is quite interesting". However, he was confused about my commentary on contemporary culture, and stated that my message was "unclear". Nonetheless, he claimed he is looking forward to my next assignment.

Schmoogr, via Tumblr

PICTURE: EYECATCHERS

DOLLIES WITH A DIFFERENCE

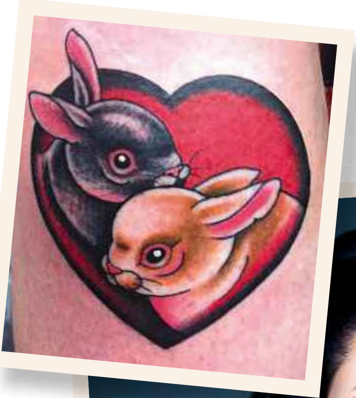
My name is Holly, and I'm the founder of 'The Modified Dolls: The Different Making a Difference – Alternative Beauty with a Cause' (above)! We are a non-profit organisation that began in late 2011, which supports a different charity each month. Our goal is to demolish the negative stereotypes associated with being a modified woman by doing charity work.

I started The Modified Dolls for a few reasons. I was tired of the negative stereotype associated with being a modified woman. I was tired of all these 'modified women groups' on social networking sites that were only around to be another 'look-at-me-I'm-tattooed-and-pretty' kind of thing; they did nothing for modded woman that made any difference to the world. I wanted to make a difference.

We're registered in over 10 different states in the US as well as three other countries, with many more states and areas building chapters. We have raised money for over 25 different charities worldwide at this point, including organisations that help adults overcome addictions, Toys For Tots, and Feeding America. We choose the charities a year in advance based on what our members believe is important, and where we see the need to be. Each chapter has a 'Head Doll' of that area and is overseen by TMD's Board Of Directors.

If your readers are interested in hearing more about our work, they can contact the UK chapter by visiting Facebook.com/UKModifiedDolls.

Holly Doll, via email



HUNNIES FOR BUNNIES

Hi *Bizarre*! It's Ultra Vixen Rayna Terror here (right) – I was one of the finalists in the Search For A Cover Star contest in 2010.

I'm writing to you about something very important and close to my heart. I learned the hard way last year about myxomatosis, which is a disease that affects many rabbits in the UK, caused by the Myxoma virus. Last September, two of my bunnies, Amelia and Ginge, had to be put to sleep. I was totally devastated, and had this tattoo by Tutti Serra at Black Garden Tattoo Studio (below) in memory of them. Then, to my horror, my other two bunnies, Maple and Alex, had to be put down exactly one week later.

I'd never heard about this horrible virus, and was shocked to discover that it was released in the wild illegally back in the 1950s to →

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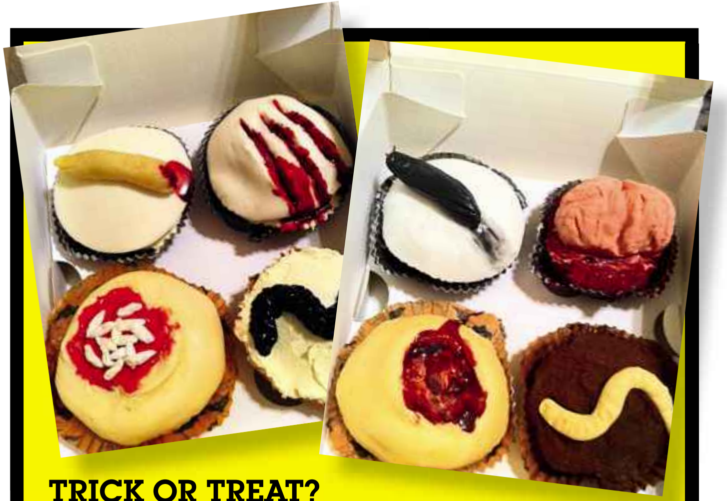
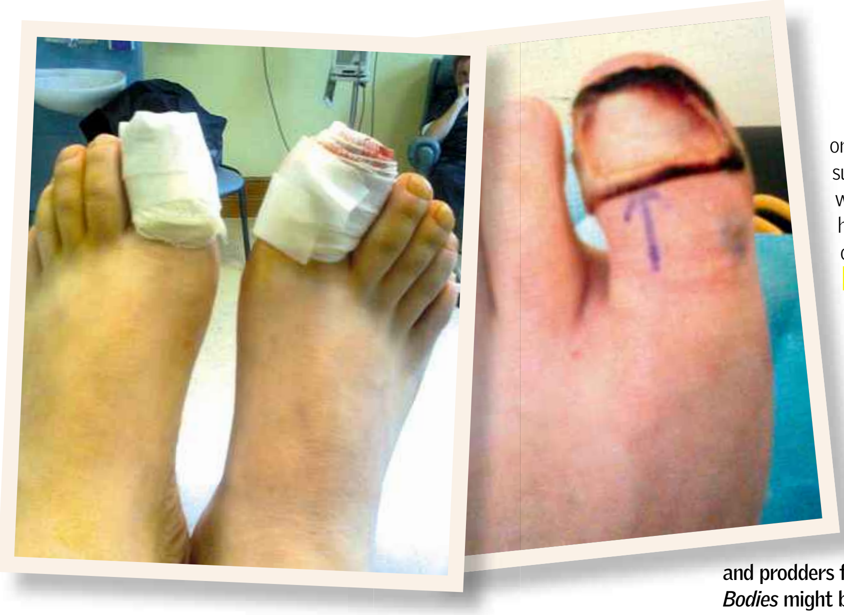
PICTURE: DAN TIDSWELL



TRICK OR TREAT?

I thought you might like these cupcakes I made for my unsuspecting colleagues. My Halloween wouldn't have been complete without creepy-crawlies, maggots and brrrrains! I'm an accountant by day, but I like to decorate cakes in my spare time. This is the first batch I've ever made with a slug on top.

Freyda Chalk, via email



eliminate 'vermin'. In fact, this year will see the 60th anniversary since it was introduced. I've done a lot of research, and have seen a lot of disgusting images of how the rabbits suffer if the virus worsens. It's even contagious through mosquito stings and flea bites, so it's not just dangerous to wild bunnies.

I want to let people know that there is a vaccine and your bunnies could be saved! Without this vaccine they stand no chance of fighting the virus, so please get them vaccinated! If you see that your bunny has symptoms, don't delay and take them to the vet! Also, please sign the petition online that will encourage the Government to stop ignoring this disease.

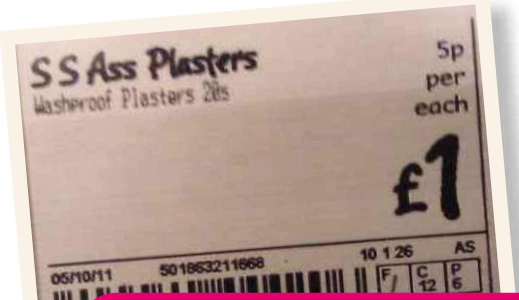
Rayna Terror, Essex

Mandatron says: Sign the petition here: Epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/38510. See Rayna's Ultra Vixen profile here: Ultravixens.net/raynaterror.

ASSDA PRICE

What's all this, then (below)? Have the Nazis launched their own line of waterproof ass plasters in our local supermarkets? I'll give them a pound of a different kind! *shakes fist in fury* Arschgeige! (That's 'dickhead' in German).

Steve French, via Facebook



FEELING THE PAYNE

Howdy, y'all. Glad to see that *Bizarre* is going back to its (sort of) original format. Those issues that featured in-depth articles on suspension expos and underground fisting parties proved to be a bit much, even for my galvanised stomach. More snaps of gruesomeness from around the globe would be appreciated for those who don't have daily access to broadband.

In light of the submitted snaps of various ailments, I thought I'd send in some pictures of my fungal infection (above, including a photo of my big toe without a nail), and this little gem of advice: if someone gives you a gift certificate for a pedicure, for God's sake USE IT! Keep up the good work, and I'll keep buying the magazine. I'm too tight to buy a subscription. TTFN.

Jon Payne, via email

CIRCUMCISED FORESKIN

Hmm... where to begin? When I was a baby I was circumcised. Today, when babies get the snip, the stitches or staples dissolve, but I think things back in 1969 might have been different. My circumcision left me with four holes in my foreskin, which I discovered at puberty! (You could say I've had my cock pierced four times!) It has been a topic of conversation with some people in my life. Once, I shocked a bunch of girls while on holiday in Majorca, but no one else has ever heard of such a thing. In all of your weird and wonderful history, have you ever come across this?

M, via email

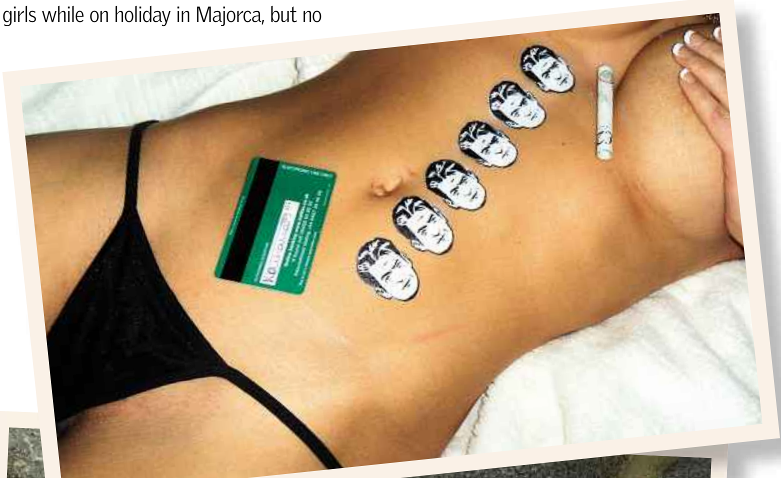
Mandatron says: You're not wrong, M – we've definitely seen our fair share of freaky phalli and botched body bits over the past decade or so, but I can't say we've ever heard of that before! But perhaps the pokers and prodders from *Embarrassing Bodies* might be able to help you? Anybody that has been suffering in silence and needs some medical answers can submit their questions to Channel4embarrassingillnesses.com.

TIGER BLOOD

I thought I would send you my recent piece of work called 'Line Of Charlie'. I first displayed it on top of a toilet cistern (which someone actually stole – I take that as a compliment) but then I decided to extend my idea to Charlie Sheen-style proportions. I wrote a status on Facebook asking for a fit lady to volunteer to have some art painted on her body, and 30 minutes later I received a response from the lovely Kelly Thomas. I told her briefly about my plan of putting a 'line of Charlie' on her body, and here are the results! As it worked so well, it's opened up scope for quite a few more ideas, so watch this space.

Jamie Paul Scanlon (JPS), via email

Mandatron says: See more of JPS' work at Thenewbedlamartasylum.bigcartel.com.



FREE LINE OF CHARLIE

Martin from Naked Sunday says: "Instead of gigging, me and my bandmates stopped to read our favourite magazine. *Bizarre* rocks, and my wife especially likes the naughty Ultra Vixens."

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys… and in the weirdest places!

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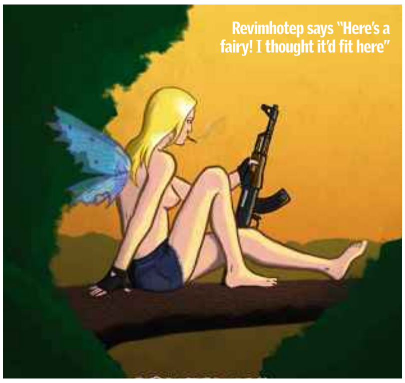
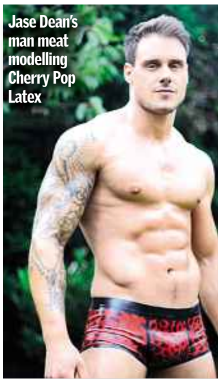
AliceBizarre submitted her Cheshire Cat inspired make-up



Revimhotep says "Here's a fairy! I thought it'd fit here"



Jase Dean's man meat modelling Cherry Pop Latex

PICTURE: CROMARTY PHOTOGRAPHY

Ultra Vixen MissDeadlyRed at an MCM Expo

Shelby Beswick, you've got red on you

PICTURE: SOGAWJUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Mona the Vampire (Stella Noir) wearing Fetasia Latex

PICTURE: TWISTEDPIX

NEXT MONTH!

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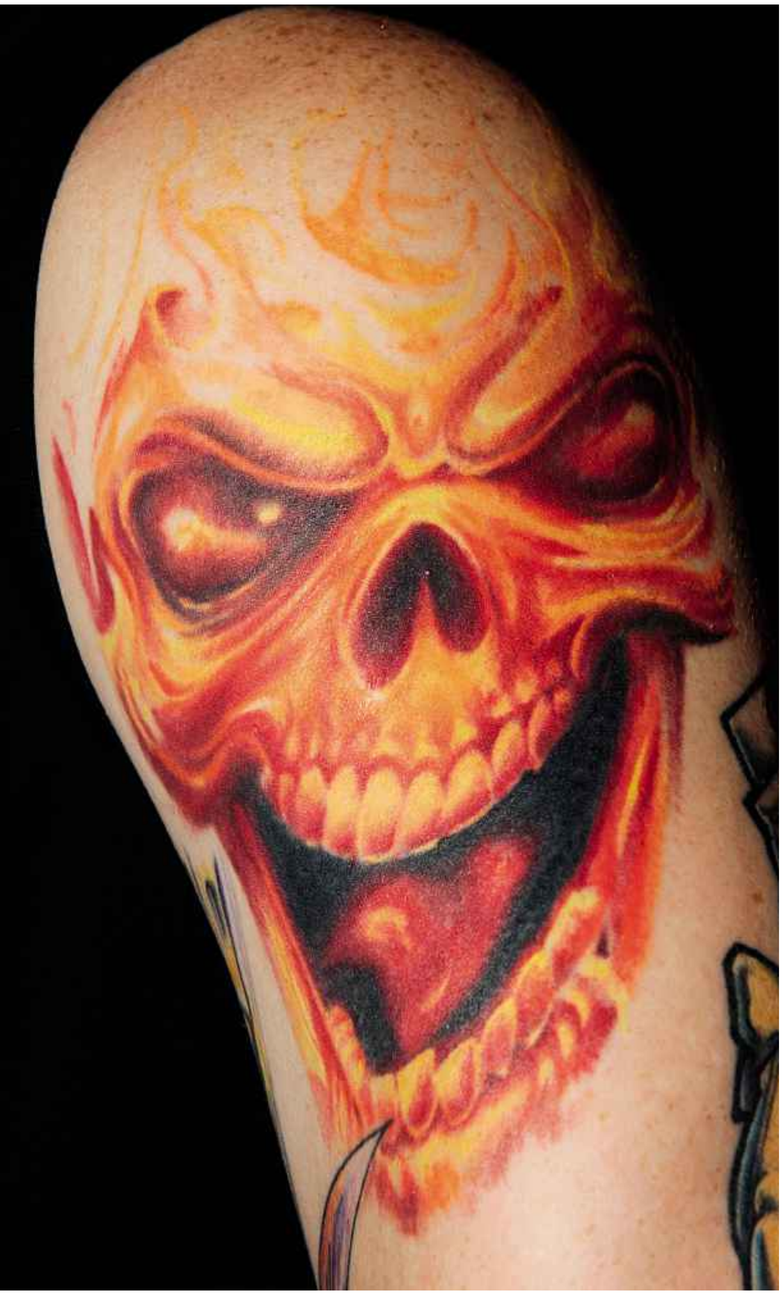
PICTURE: CHRISTIAN SAINT

YOUR Body Art

READER TATTS AND BODY MODS

PHOTOS **ESTER SEGARRA**



DARREN PERKINS▼
PONTEFRACT

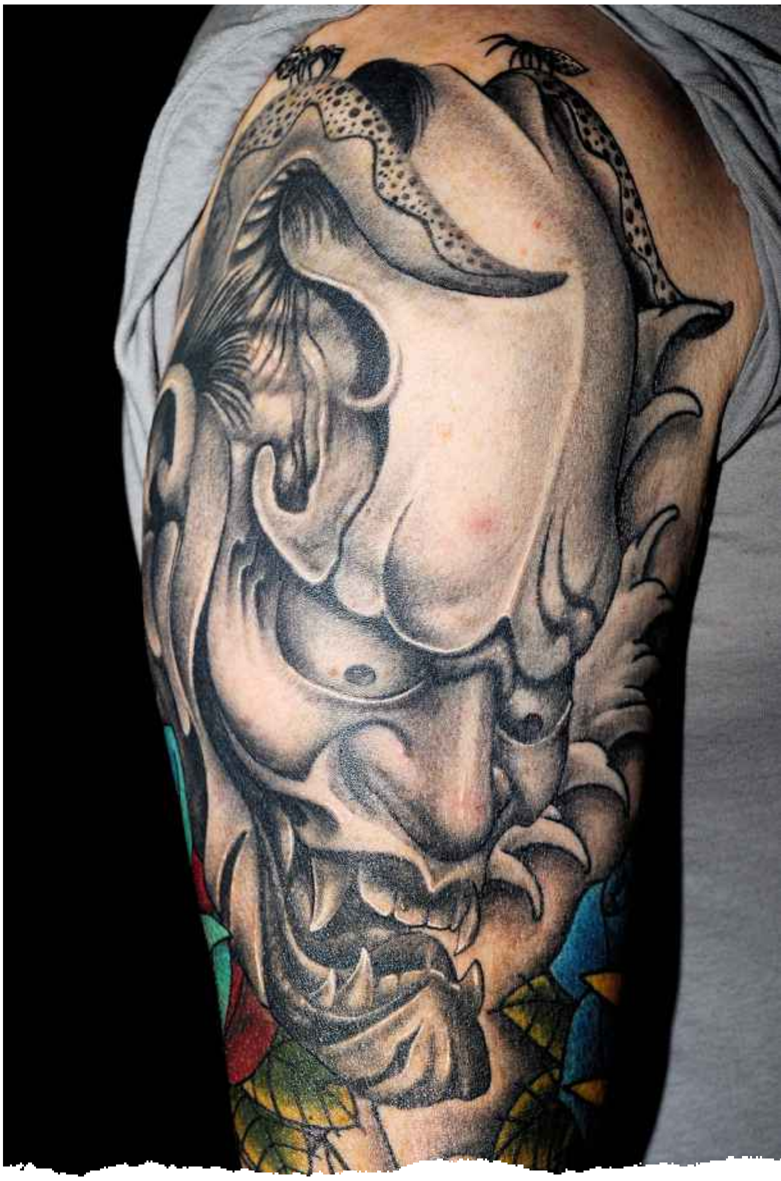
WHO DID IT? Paul Naylor, Powerhouse Tattoo, Cheshire.

WHAT IS IT?
It's a sleeve filled with two Japanese Hannya masks, old-school roses, cobwebs, spiders and some waves.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I've always liked Hannya masks, and I've been waiting for five months for an appointment with Paul, so I thought I'd have a full sleeve. I like the bright flowers because I think they split up the black and grey, and they make the design pop out a little more.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
Most of my family think it's pretty cool, although some of them think it's a midlife crisis because I've just turned 38. I've always liked tattoos, then I started watching *Miami Ink* and got some ideas. Then I began reading tattoo magazines, did a bit of research on artists, went to a few conventions, then booked an appointment with Paul over two years ago. I had two sleeves inked in the space of a year. I don't feel any different in myself, but I've had some people who just stare. Some people think my tattoos are cool, others hate them.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I have a chest piece planned, but I need to start working out to get in better shape!



▲MATT TROTTER
LEEDS

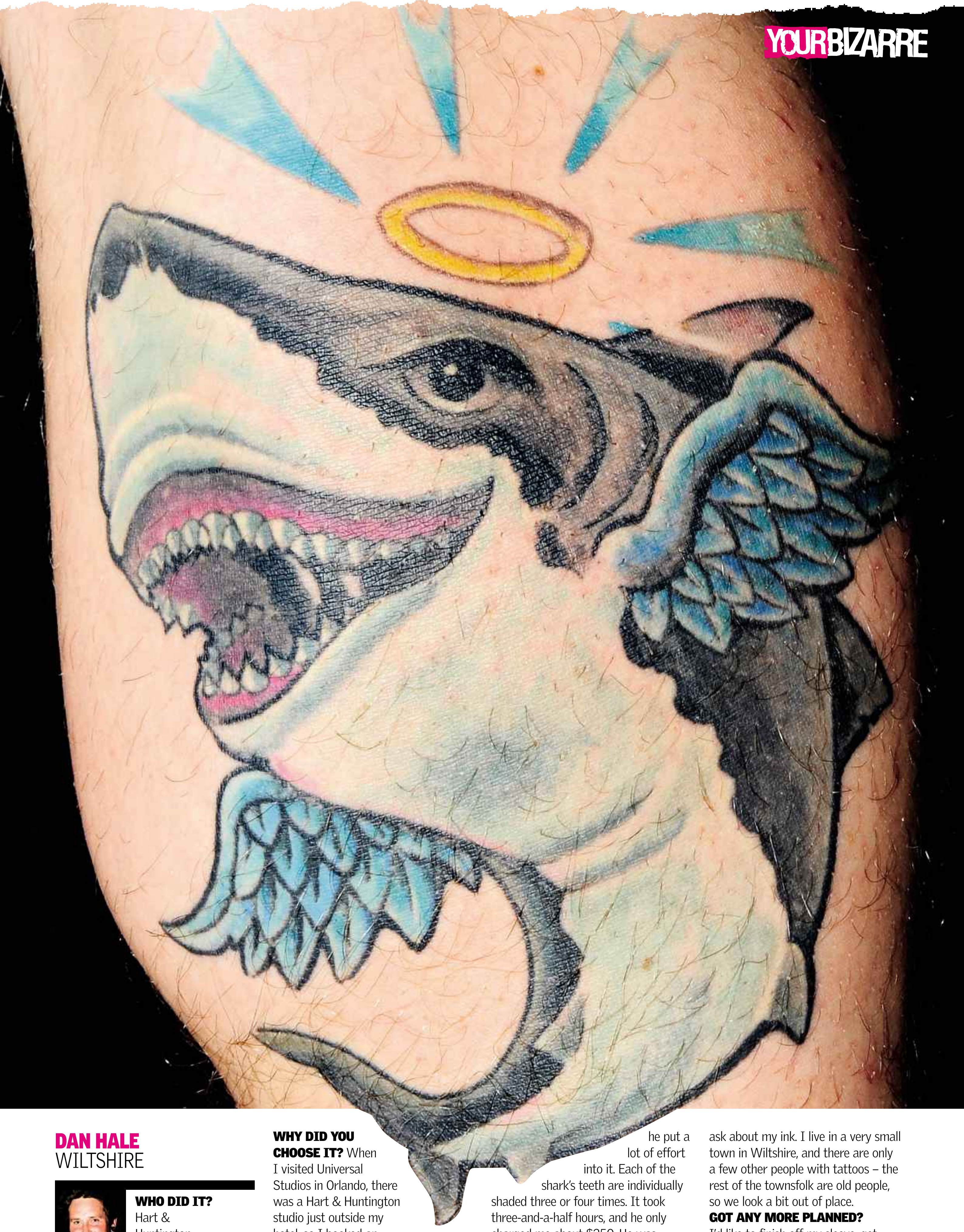
WHO DID IT?
Steve Oliver, A Breed Apart Tattoo Studio, Mirfield.

WHAT IS IT?
A flaming skull.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I like biomechanical stuff, and I'm influenced by HR Giger. I like skulls and fire, but my tattoo doesn't really mean anything.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
Some people are disgusted by it. I visited France, and a lot of people there didn't like it; they were offended by my ink. But in England, everyone's cool. My family love it. Kids don't see the skull – they just see the colours.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I want a big octopus next. I'm thinking it will be purple.



DAN HALE
WILTSHIRE

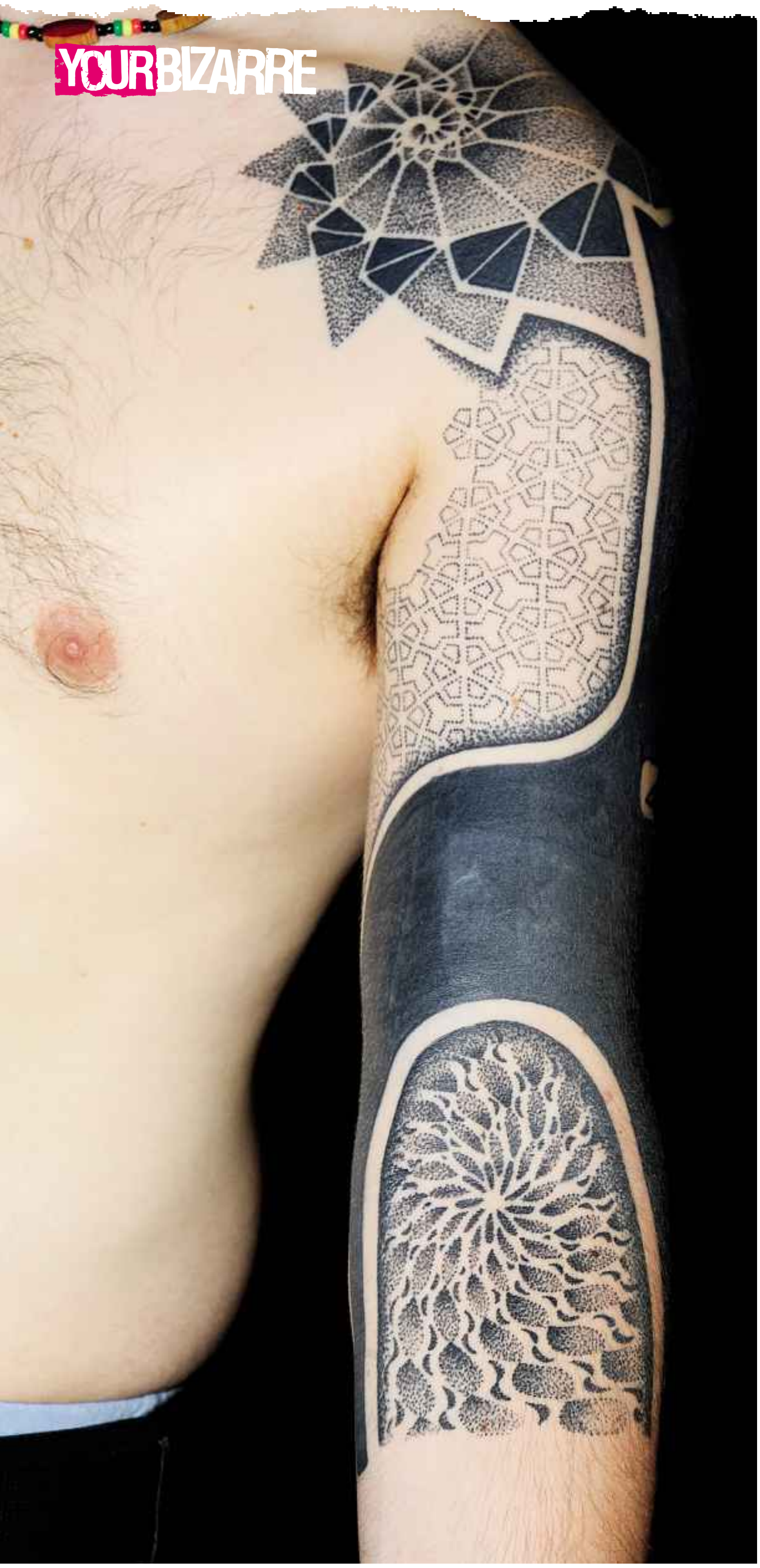
WHO DID IT? Hart & Huntington Tattoo, Florida.

WHAT IS IT? A shark.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT? When I visited Universal Studios in Orlando, there was a Hart & Huntington studio just outside my hotel, so I booked an appointment for the end of my holiday. It's a custom piece the artist drew especially for me, and he put a lot of effort into it. Each of the shark's teeth are individually shaded three or four times. It took three-and-a-half hours, and he only charged me about $250. He was a really nice guy as well.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE? A lot of people ask about my ink. I live in a very small town in Wiltshire, and there are only a few other people with tattoos – the rest of the townsfolk are old people, so we look a bit out of place.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED? I'd like to finish off my sleeve, get some anchors on my feet, an octopus on the side of my neck, and the sea swelling up my feet. →



▲GARETH KIRK
NEW TOWN, WALES

WHO DID IT? Patrick Hüttlinger, Sakrosankt, Germany. **WHAT IS IT?** A geometric sleeve.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT? This is a cover-up because I had some rubbish tribal, hence why there’s so much black in the design. Patrick tattooed my leg a few years ago, so I thought he’d be a good artist to cover up my old design. We picked a pattern together. Patrick’s good at geometric designs and working out the ratios and scales. I don’t know why I like this style, but I do. At the moment we’ve done about nine hours, and we’re going to do another four.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET? People think it’s good because it’s something you don’t usually see in my hometown – it’s a little bit different. I don’t show it off too much. If I get good comments, I say thanks – but if I get negatives ones, I just ignore them.

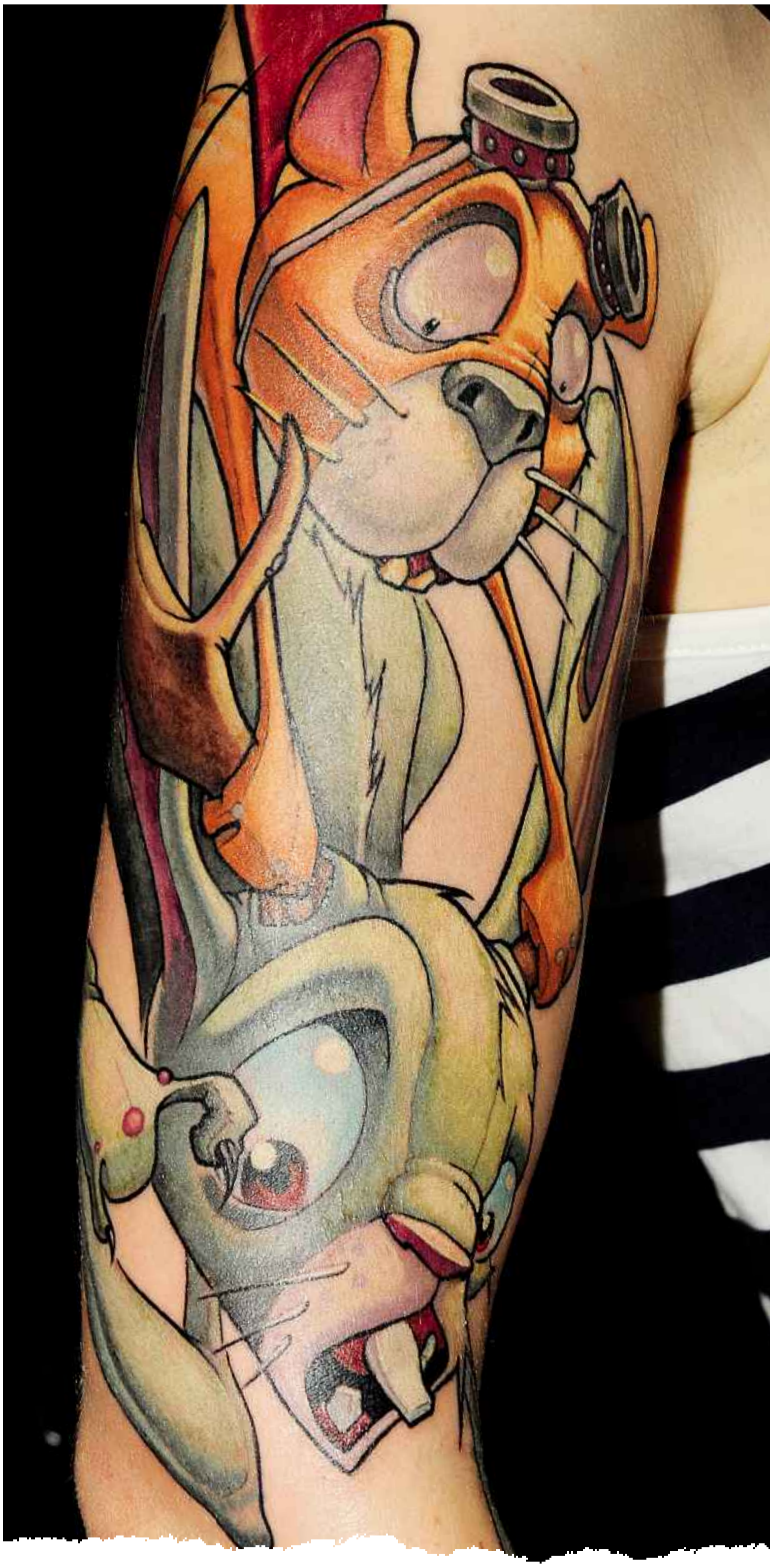
GOT ANY MORE PLANNED? I’ve got a bare leg, so I’ll try to find something to fit, but I think I’ve got enough patterns. Tanane Whitfield from the US has a great style – I like his cartoony work.

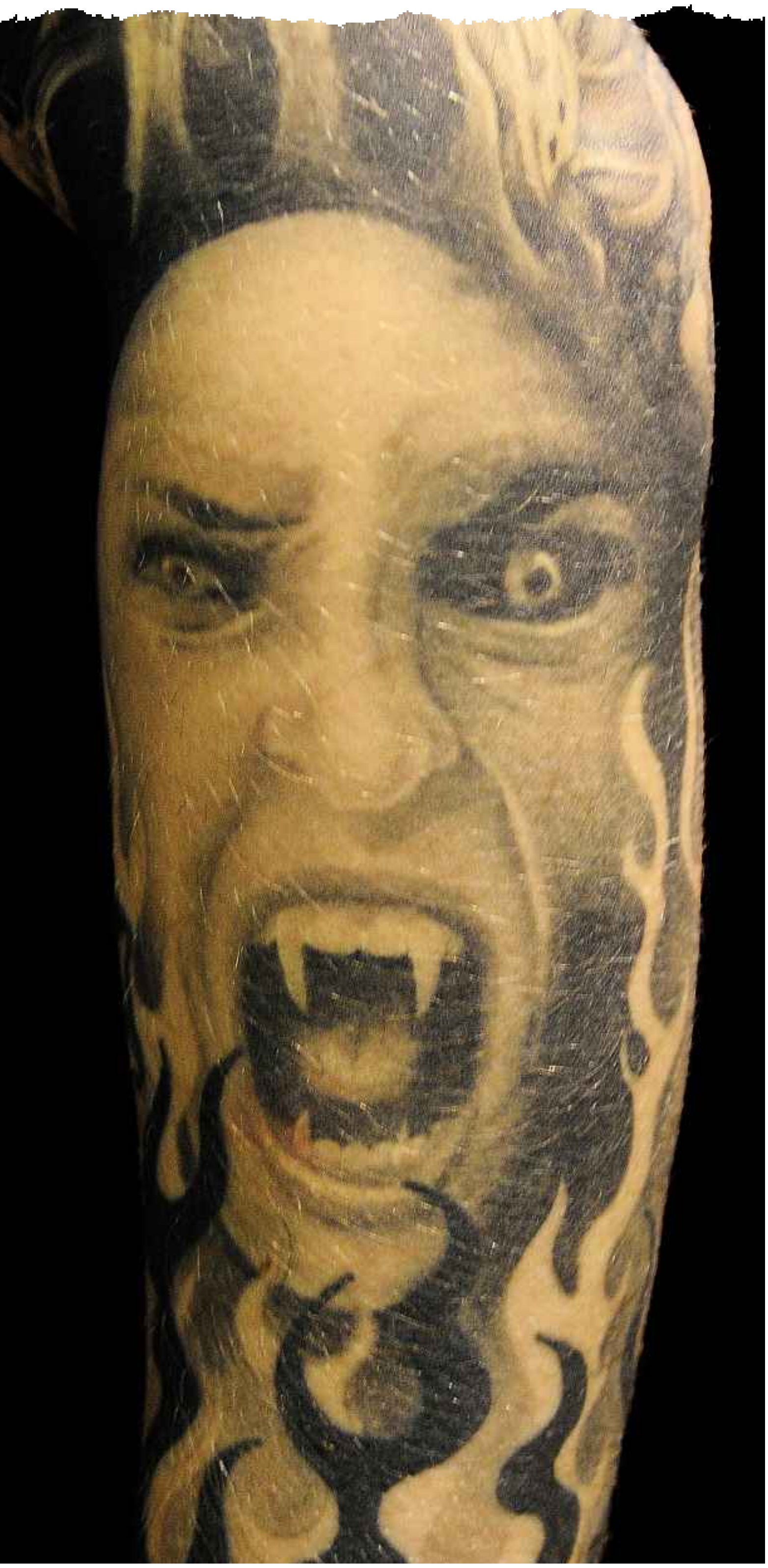
RIANNE ROWLANDS▼
BRIGEND

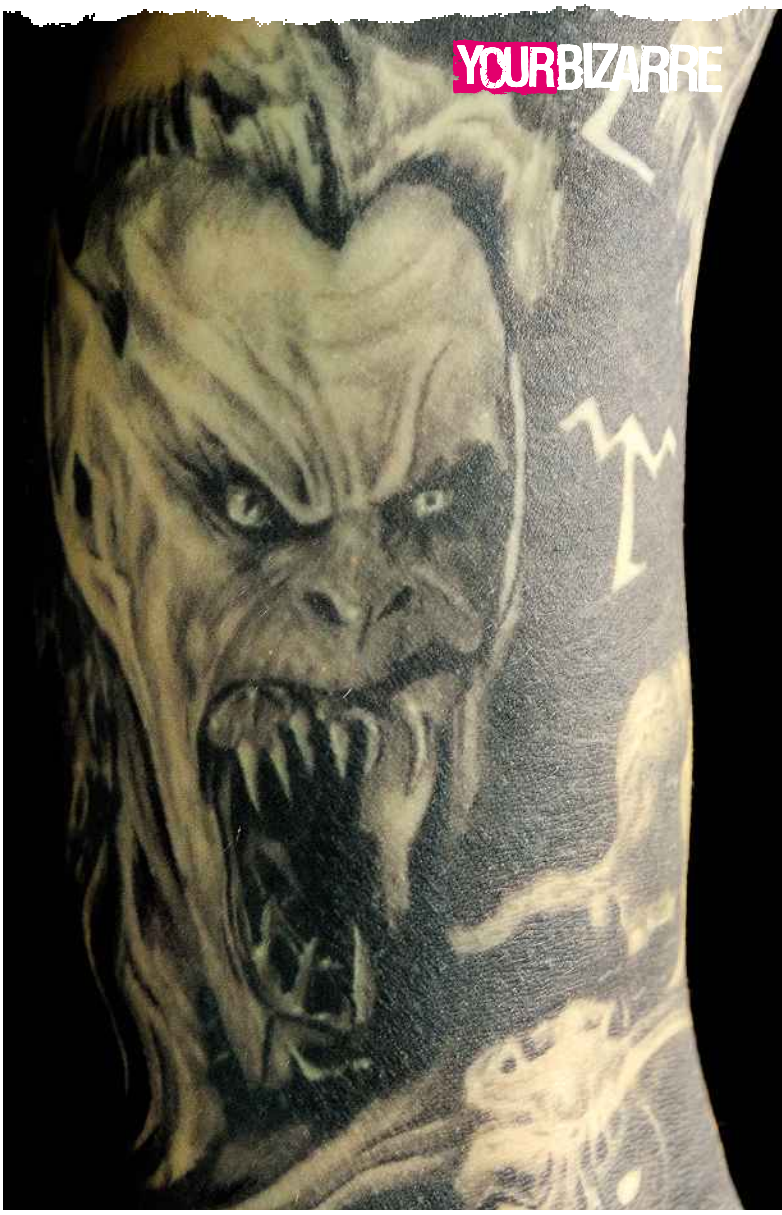
WHO DID IT? Jesse Smith, Loose Screw Tattoo, Virginia. **WHAT IS IT?** A guinea pig riding a jackalope on my arm.

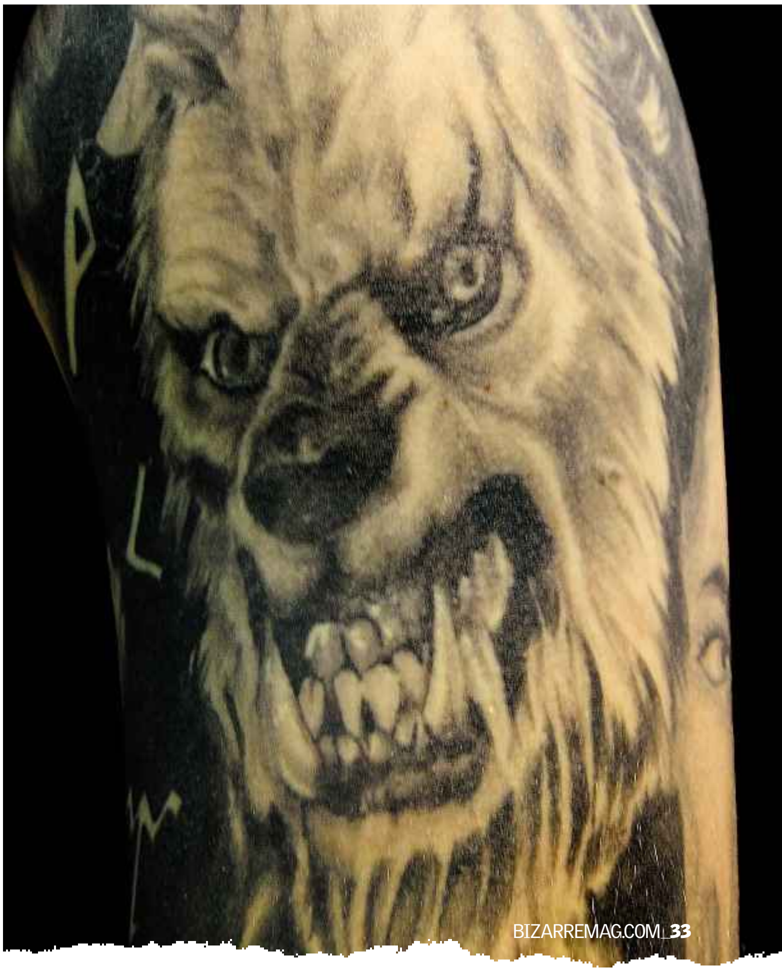
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT? I love guinea pigs – I’ve got five as pets – and a jackalope is a really cool mythical creature. Many of Jesse’s tattoos are inspired by back stories, and this design is part of one called *Ferchett’s Island*, in which the guinea pigs are going to override the jackalopes, rather like an army. I’m really, *really* happy with my ink, which took Jesse 12 hours to complete, from start to finish.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE? Everyone loves it because Jesse's style is so original and quirky. Mostly, people like the energy, because it looks like it’s coming off my arm. People also like the colours, which Jesse freestyles as he goes. I’ve been a huge fan of Jesse's work for four years, and I’ve waited a long time to be tattooed by him. I had kept this part of my arm free for his work! I always said that one day I would be tattooed by Jesse Smith – and now it’s happened!









▲GARETH EVANS
CARDIFF

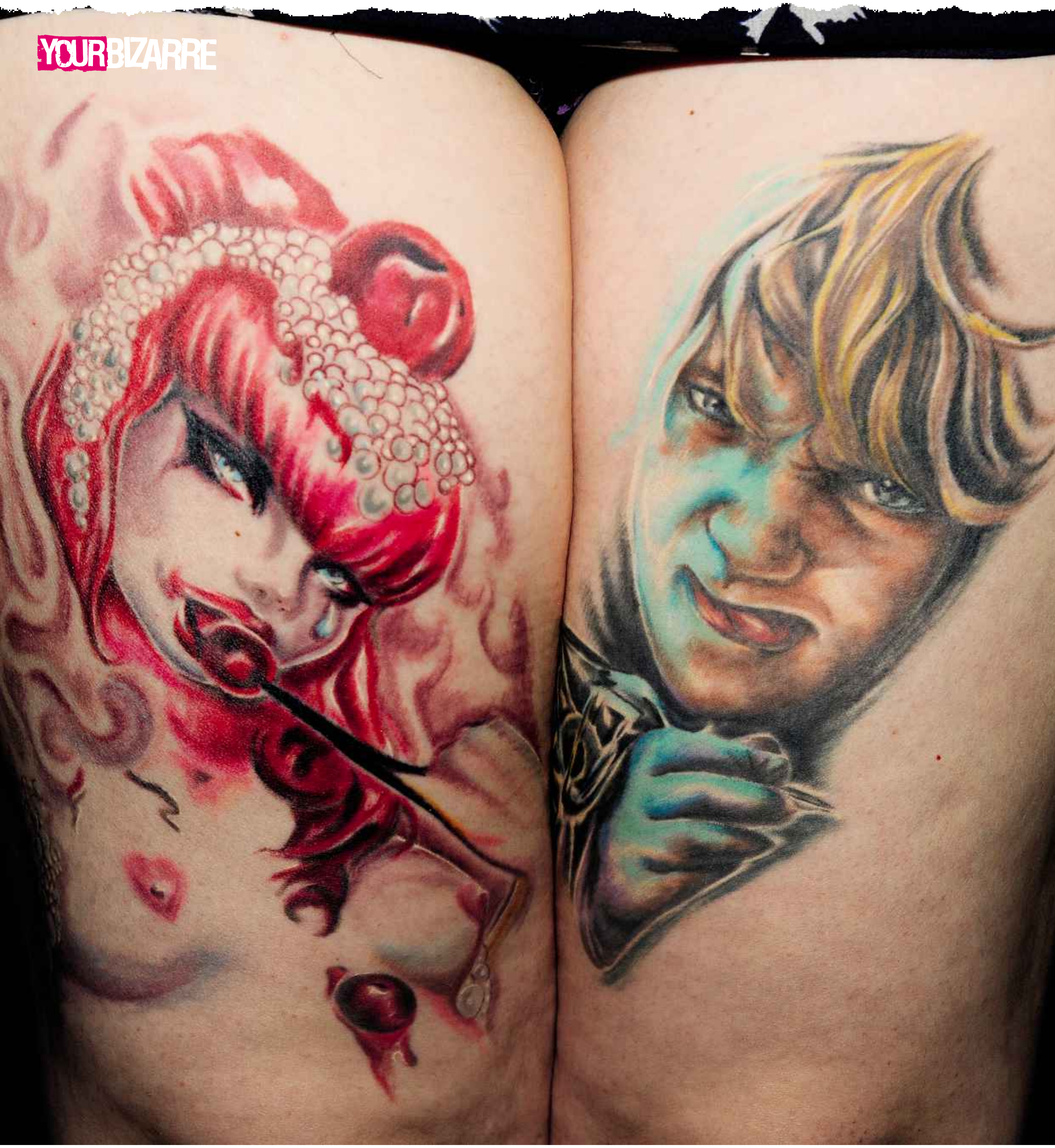
WHO DID IT?
Simon Ashley, Needle Asylum, Cardiff.

WHAT IS IT?
It's a horror-themed arm, including the wolves from *Van Helsing* and two vampires. Amongst the shading on my sleeve there are runes in white which mean 'Safe Journey'.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I really like horror films – in particular I like the *The Evil Dead* and the *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*. My mum loves my sleeve, but my dad doesn't really like tattoos. Every time I go home they ask me whether I've had any more ink done, and normally I have.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
A policeman once stopped his patrol car, got out, and followed me down the street to ask me which tattoo studio I went to! It really made me jump – he tapped me on the shoulder because I was listening to my headphones. I thought I'd dropped litter or something!

HAVE YOU GOT ANY MORE TATTOOS PLANNED?
I'm planning some more animal skulls to add to my fox and rat skulls. I might get a crow, with a snake wrapped around it. →



EMMA BAILEY
CHESTER

WHO DID IT? Mark Bailey, Golden Dragon, Chester.

WHAT IS IT? Two faces.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT? Mark is my husband and has pretty much done all my tattoos. The one on my right thigh is a painting by Michael Hussar, and Mark inked his own portrait on my left leg. I chose to get a tattoo of my partner to make him feel guilty for not having one of me. The Hussar painting was just a random design to me.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK? My friends and family don't mind my tattoos at all, and as I am married to a tattooist they must expect it. My hubby really likes the tattoo of himself on my thigh – it was the first time he'd tattooed his own face!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE? Everyone is really positive about my ink.

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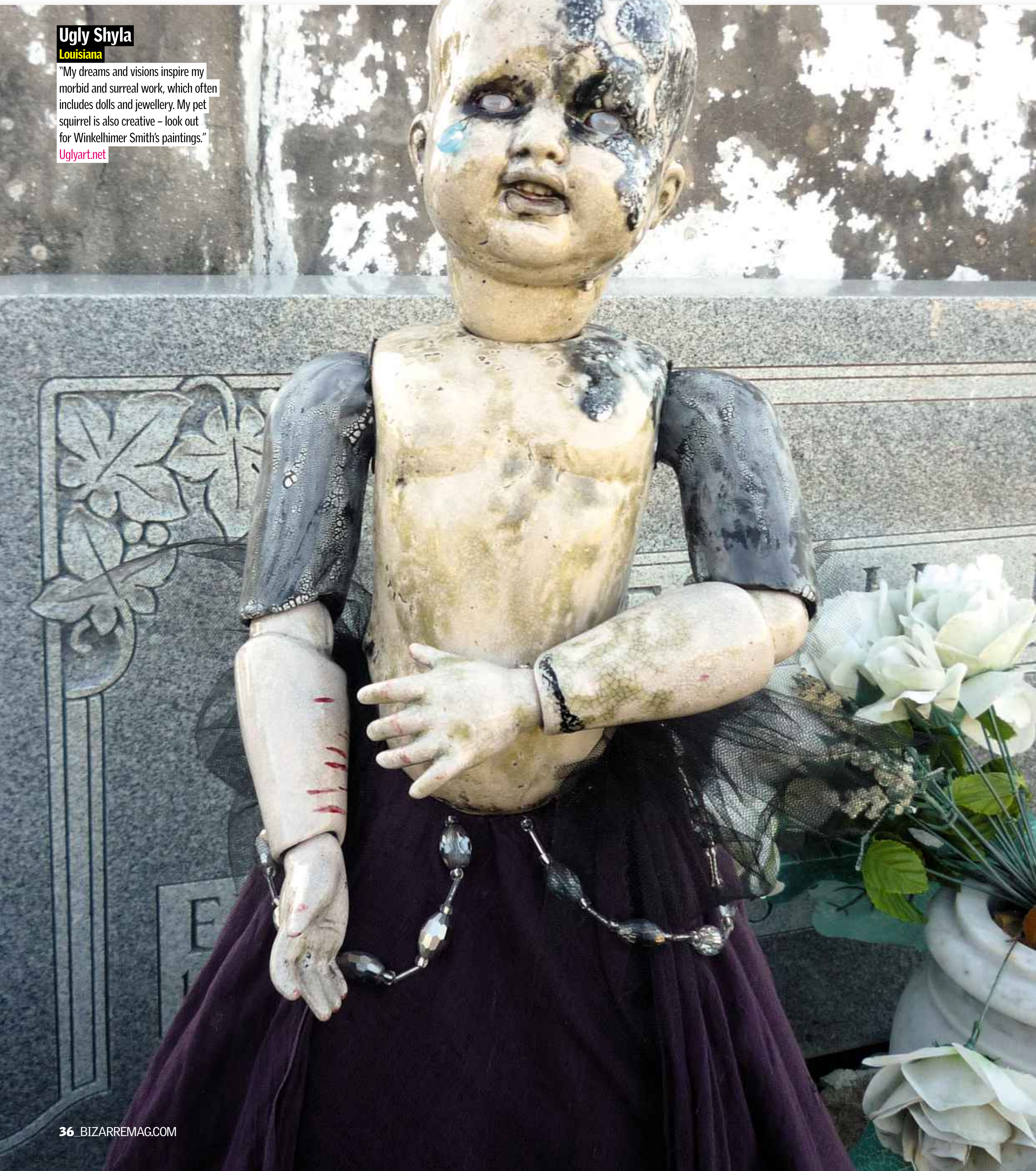
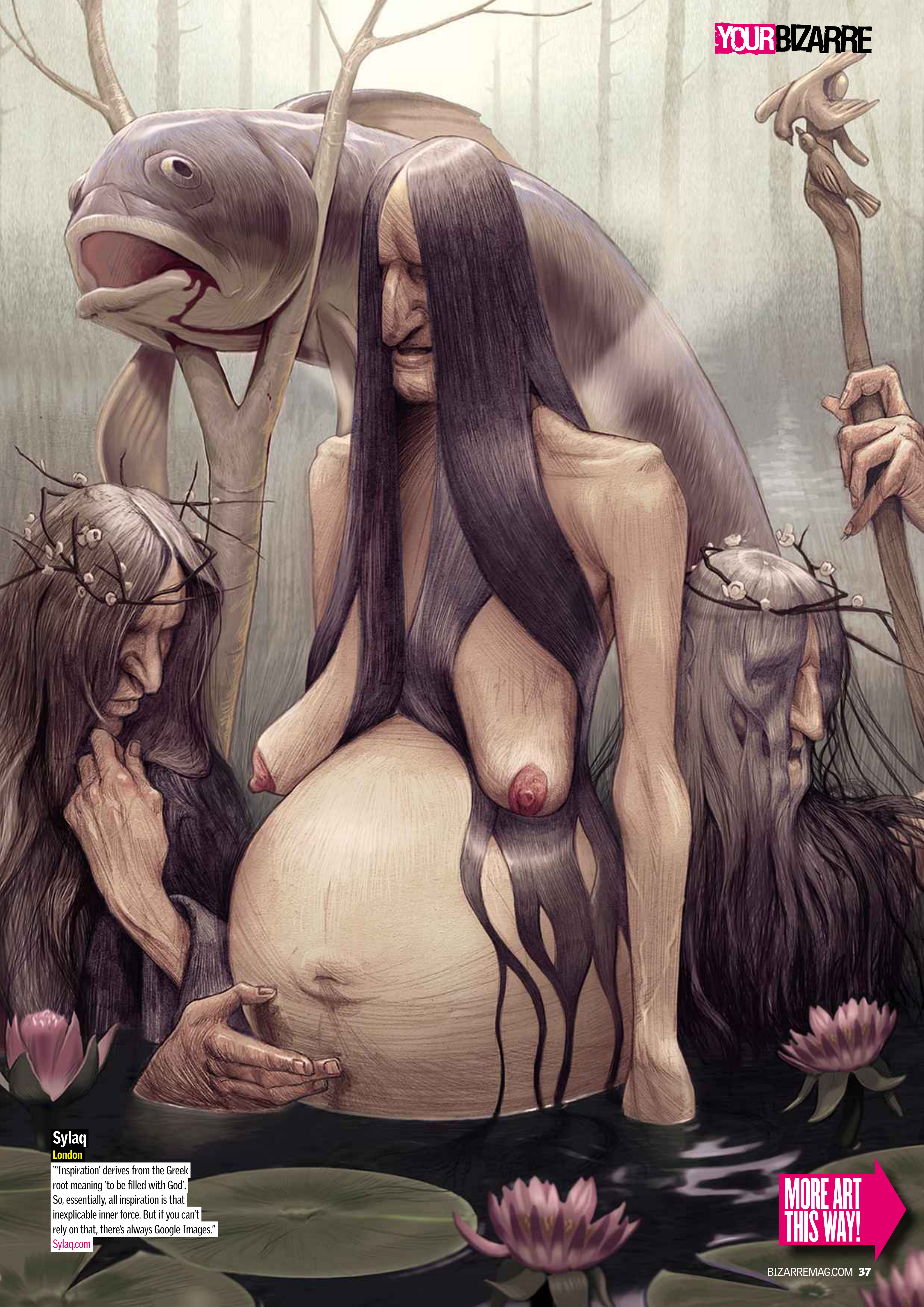


Ugly Shyla

Louisiana

"My dreams and visions inspire my morbid and surreal work, which often includes dolls and jewellery. My pet squirrel is also creative – look out for Winkelhimer Smith's paintings."

Uglyart.net



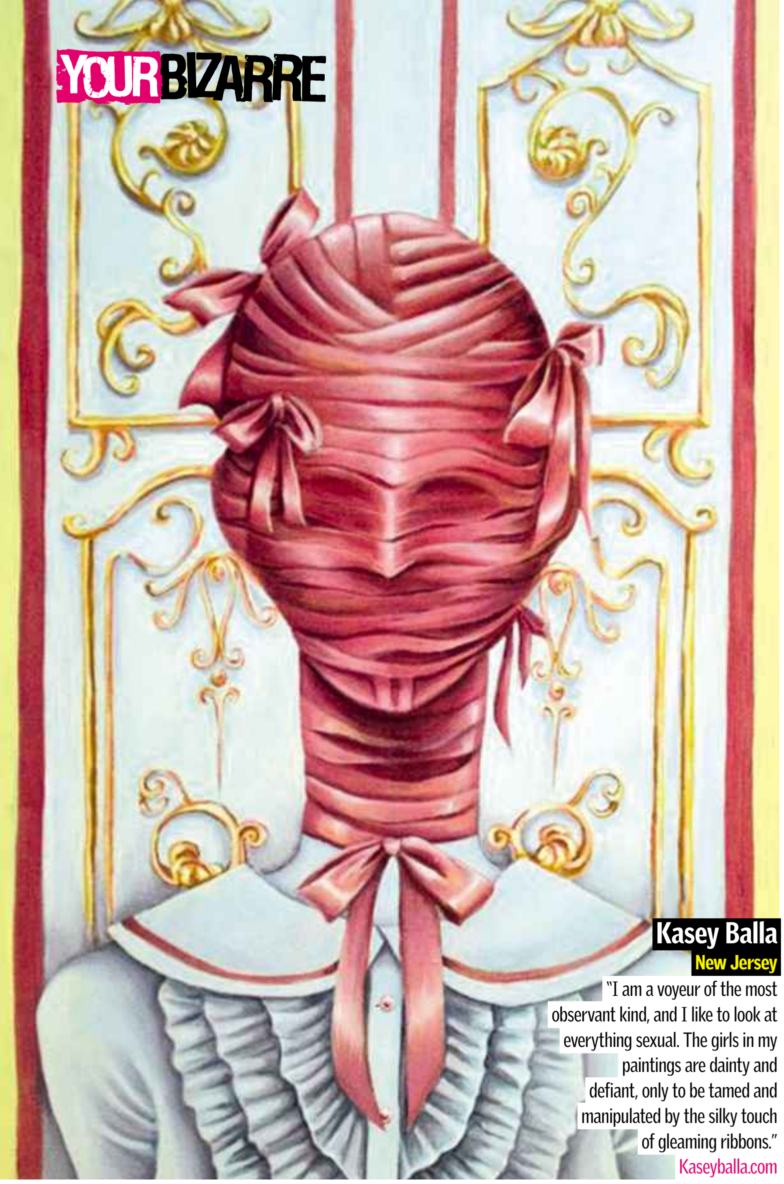
Sylaq

London

"'Inspiration' derives from the Greek root meaning 'to be filled with God'. So, essentially, all inspiration is that inexplicable inner force. But if you can't rely on that, there's always Google Images."

Sylaq.com

MORE ART THIS WAY!

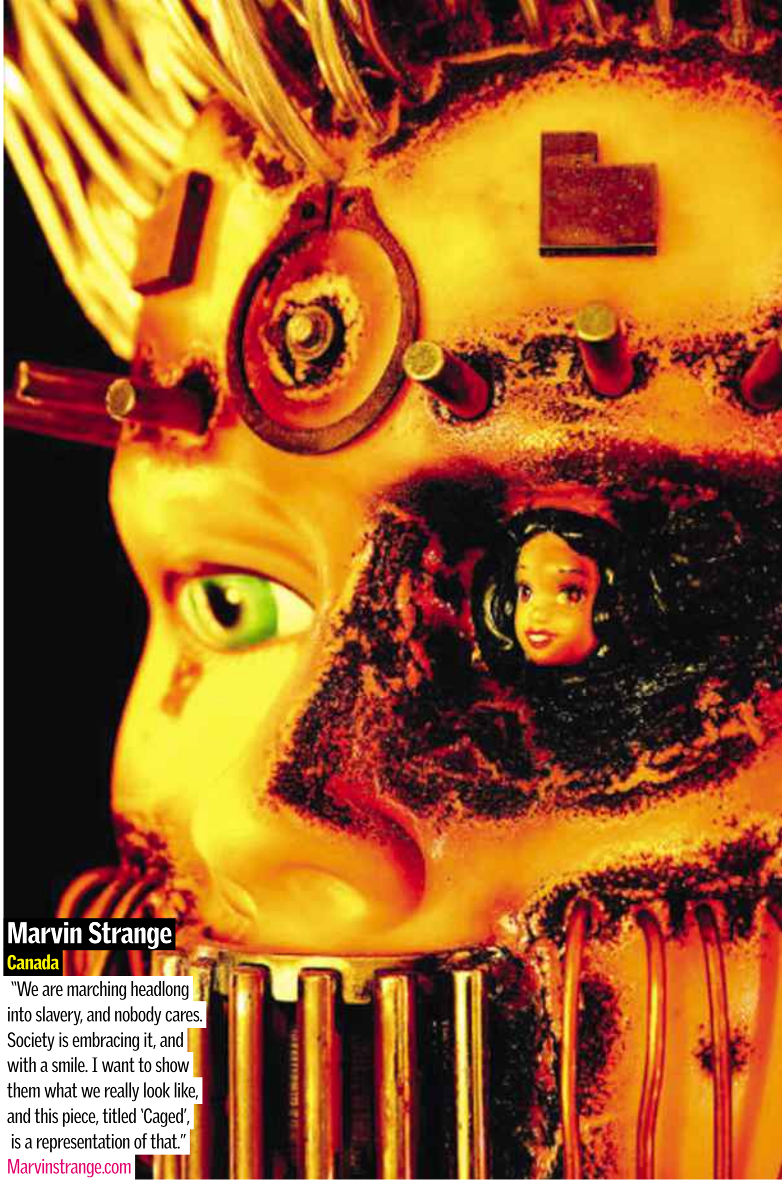


Kasey Balla

New Jersey

"I am a voyeur of the most observant kind, and I like to look at everything sexual. The girls in my paintings are dainty and defiant, only to be tamed and manipulated by the silky touch of gleaming ribbons."

Kaseyballa.com

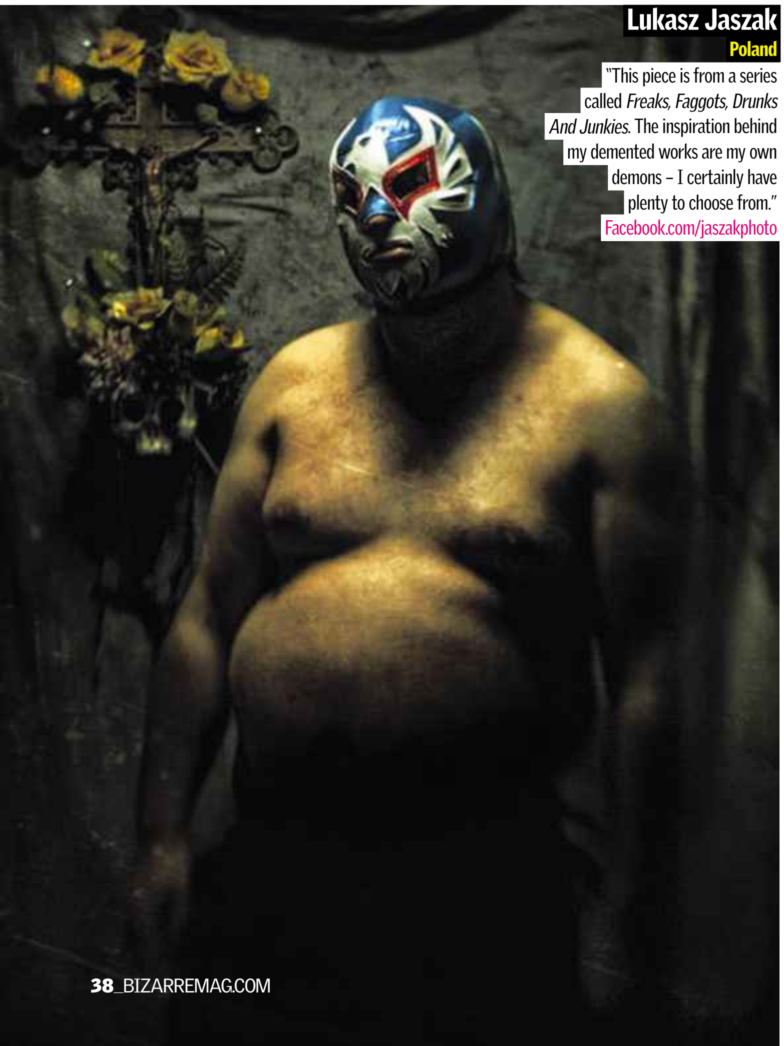


Marvin Strange

Canada

"We are marching headlong into slavery, and nobody cares. Society is embracing it, and with a smile. I want to show them what we really look like, and this piece, titled 'Caged', is a representation of that."

Marvinstrange.com

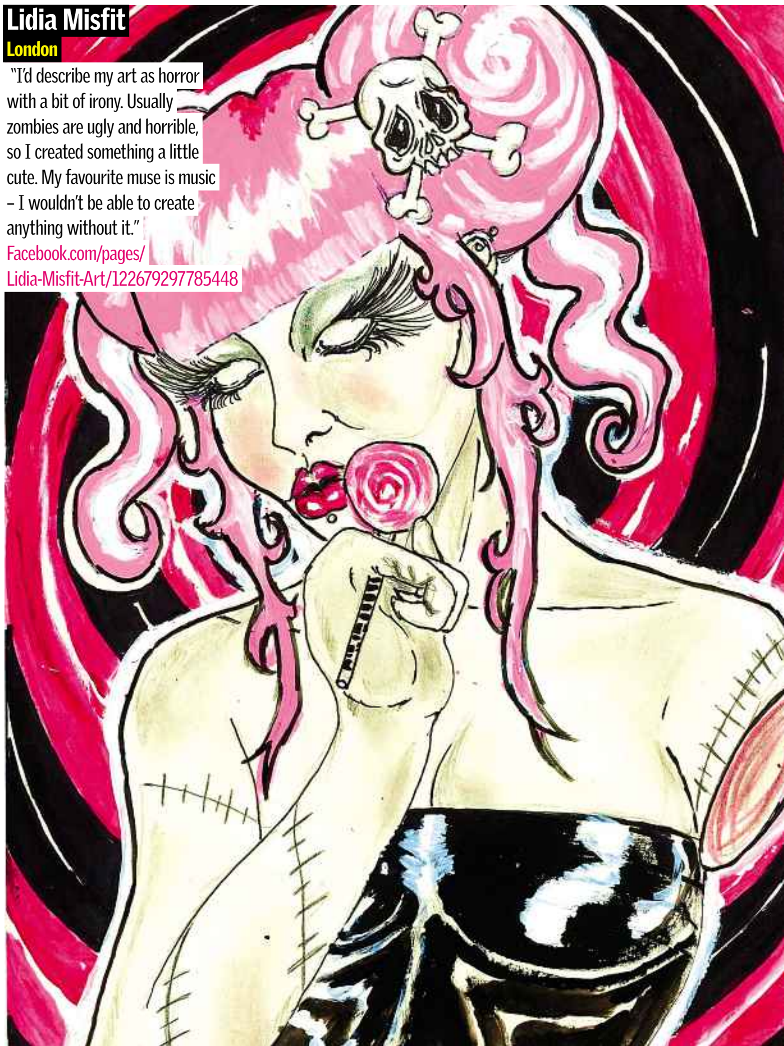


Lukasz Jaszak

Poland

"This piece is from a series called *Freaks, Faggots, Drunks And Junkies*. The inspiration behind my demented works are my own demons – I certainly have plenty to choose from."

Facebook.com/jaszakphoto



Lidia Misfit

London

"I'd describe my art as horror with a bit of irony. Usually zombies are ugly and horrible, so I created something a little cute. My favourite muse is music – I wouldn't be able to create anything without it."

Facebook.com/pages/Lidia-Misfit-Art/122679297785448

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MISSLOLO

PICTURE: NOAH T MUNGER

PICTURE: MUARA HOUSLEY

LEANNE JAMES

21, BICESTER

"I once had sex while watching Slayer perform, which was pretty epic. I love *Bizarre* for the mix of crazy news, the featured alt.girls, combined with an awesome read – there's nothing else like it."

PICTURE: ROWAN MURRAY

LUNA SANGRE

27, DUBLIN

"I'm like a dark Alice in Wonderland mixed with a 70's hippy chick and a Harajuku girl. I'm a bit of a serial streaker, and I have a thing for giving my man hand-jobs in random public places."

RED-HOT!
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PICTURE: SHAY MURPHY

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LUDELLA HAHN AND MISS MISCHIEF

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

"This shot is from a series titled *The Latex Adventures Of Stinky And Coon* – we ventured on to the sidewalk for only five minutes before the police were called because of our 'public nudity'."

PICTURE: EVAN SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

EVE_ELLE

20, STOKE-ON-TRENT

"I'm a cage-dancing, angle-grinding, fire-breathing, stilt-walking, latex-wearing, lizard-loving pierced and tattooed alt.model with an unhealthy obsession with Tank Girl and ripping my clothes."

PICTURE: FRAUGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Each month we'll will be scouring **UltraVixens.net** for new stars. When we've spotted 10 girls we like, we'll invite them to take part in a photoshoot in London, which will be printed in *Bizarre*. If any of the girls make the grade, they'll appear on the cover, just like PoppyThorn did (below)! Up for the challenge? Then sign up at **UltraVixens.net** and hit the 'Make Me A Cover Star' button on your profile page!

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"SOME GIRLS MIGHT FEEL PRESSURE TO SLIM DOWN, BUT IF I DID THAT I WOULDN'T GET TO SHOW OFF MY BANGING CURVES!"

URBAN FOX

"I DID A PHOTOSHOOT IN AN OLD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL INSIDE A PADDED CELL. I TRIED TO IGNORE THE BLOOD SPLATS ALONG THE WALL"

OUR NEW FAVES!

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET

CANDICE FITCH

Mandatron says: Can Candice can-can? Sure she can! As well as being a trained dancer and performer, she's a hotty with a sense of humour. Check out her profile to see how she answers the phone.

Dave Kelsall says: Yes, she certainly can… though it's really hard to tell under all that Day Of The Dead make-up… but check out her profile!

TATTOOEDBROOKIE

Mandatron says: If you like lacy black lingerie, lovely long legs and lustful lingering-looks, TattooedBrookie is the Ultra Vixen for you! (Oh and she has tattoos if you, err… hadn't guessed.)

Dave Kelsall says: Oh right… thanks Mandatron. I wondered why she was called tattooedbrookie! She certainly goes for the moody look (as in dark, mysterious and moody)… and not as… in a mood.

KER-CHING!

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Belle (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to **Ultravixens.net/sophiahartless** to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of LIVE CHAT Ultra Vixens, go to **UltraVixens.net/live**

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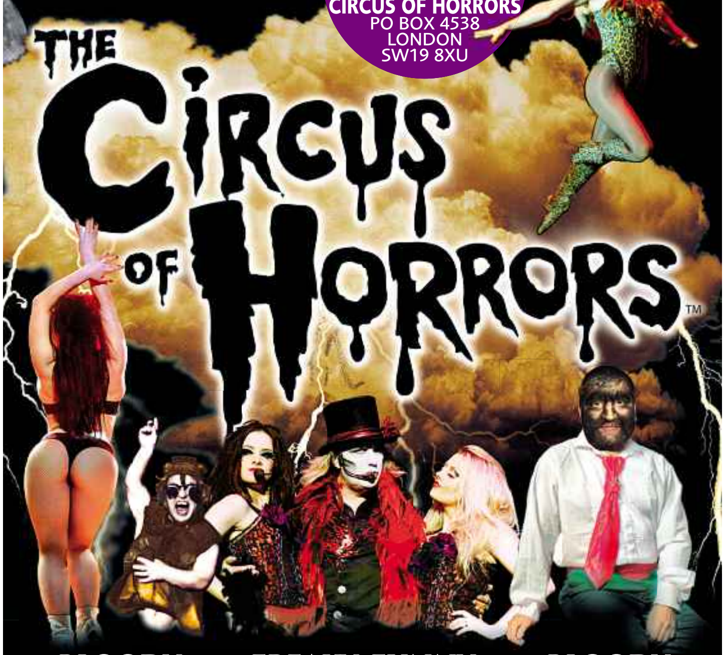

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Hereford Courtyard Theatre	**Wed 23 Jan**	01432 340555	courtyard.org.uk	
Stoke Victoria Hall	**Thrs 24 Jan**	0844 871 7649	ambassadortickets.com/Victoria-Hall	T
Wolverhampton Civic Theatre	**25 Fri Jan**	0870 320 7000	wolvescivic.co.uk	T
Warrington Parr Hall	**Sat 26 Jan**	01925 442345	pyramidparrhall.co.uk	T
Kilmarnock The Palace	**Sun 27 Jan**	01563 554900	enjoyeastayrshire.com	
Glasgow King's Theatre	**Mon 28 Jan**	0844 871 7648	atgtickets.com/venues/kings-theatre	
Darlington Civic Theatre	**Tues 29 Jan**	01325 486555	darlingtonarts.co.uk	
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre	**Wed 30 Jan**	01785 254653	staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk	
Cardiff New Theatre	**Thrs 31 Jan to Sat 2 Feb**	029 2087 8889	newtheatrecardiff.co.uk	
Weston Super Nightmare PLAYHOUSE	**Sun 3 Feb**	01934 645544	theplayhouse.co.uk	
Brighton Theatre Royal	**Mon 4 Feb**	0844 8 717 650	ambassadortickets.com/brighton	
Reading Hexagon	**Tues 5 Feb**	0118 960 6060	readingarts.com	
Bristol Colston Hall	**Wed 6 Feb**	0117 922 3686	colstonhall.org	T
Mansfield Palace Theatre	**Fri 8 Feb**	01623 633133	mansfield.gov.uk/palacetheatre	
Dunstable Grove Theatre	**Sat 9 Feb**	01582 602080	grovetheatre.co.uk	
Dartford Orchard Theatre	**Mon 11 Feb**	01322 220000	orchardtheatre.co.uk	T
Harlow Playhouse	**Tues 12 Feb**	01279 431945	playhouseharlow.com	
Buxton Opera House	**Wed 13 Feb**	0845 127 2190	buxtonoperahouse.org.uk	
Nottingham Royal Concert Hall	**Thrs 14 Feb**	0115 989 5555	trch.co.uk	T
Gt Yarmouth Hippodrome	**Fri 15/Sat 16 Feb**	01493 844172	hippodromecircus.co.uk	
Birmingham Alexandra Theatre	**Mon 18 Feb**	0844 871 3011	alexandratheatre.org.uk	T
Leicester De Montfort Hall	**Tues 19 feb**	0116 233 3111	demontforthall.co.uk	T
Leamington Spa Royal Spa Theatre	**Wed 20 Feb**	01926 334 418	warwickdc.gov.uk/wdc/royalspacentre	
Worthing Pavilion	**Mon 25 Feb**	01903 206206	worthingtheatres.co.uk	
Weymouth PAVILION	**Tues 26 Feb**	01305 783225	weymouthpavilion.purchase-tickets-online.co.uk	
Bournemouth Pavilion	**Wed 27 Feb**	0844 576 3000	bic.co.uk	T
Stevenage Gordon Craig Theatre	**Thrs 28 Feb**	01438 363200	gordon-craig.co.uk	T
Clacton Princes Theatre	**Fri 1 Mar**	01255 686633	essex-live.co.uk/venues	
Margate Winter Gardens	**Sat 2 Mar**	01843 296111	margatewintergardens.co.uk	T
Epsom Playhouse	**Sun 3 Mar**	01372 742555	epsomplayhouse.co.uk	
Northampton Royal and Derngate	**Mon 4 Mar**	01604 624811	royalandderngate.co.uk	
Preston Guild Hall	**Tues** 5 Mar	0845 344 2012	prestonguildhall.com	
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The dangerous nature of our performances means individual acts may sometimes change

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
PHOTOS **JOSEFINE JÖNSSON**
HAIR & MAKE-UP **ELEGY ELLEM & MISS MIRANDA**
LATEX BY **LADY LUCIE LATEX**

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Peter Pan. Marilyn Manson. *Twin Peaks*. Godzilla. Killer heels and voyeuristic ciggie perving… The ravishing tag team of **Elegy Ellem** and **Miss Miranda** invite you deep inside their wicked minds, while unloading twice the amount of sauce onto our pages. Their love of dinosaurs and latex is what brought them together. But that's not dinosaurs in latex…they're not *that* weird →

When London lovely Miss Miranda and Swedish scorcher Elegy Ellem were paired up as Popcorn and Candyfloss Girl at a fashion show for Lady Lucie Latex in 2009, it was the start of a bonding that would see them get up to all sorts of crazy mischief. From sexing up *Star Wars* at the London Tattoo Convention, to getting lewd with food in *Twin Peaks* stage sets, the raunchy twosome have dragged the popular phrase ‘double trouble’ to new extremes.

Both multi-talented (dancers, designers, artists, snowboarders, fire-breathers, musical saw-players, dinosaur experts and a whole bunch of other cool things), they also share weird and wonderful minds. Luckily for us, we got to tap deep inside both of them. *Geronimo!*

Greetings and salutations, ladies. So, what’s the sexiest thing you have done together?

Elegy: We did a *Twin Peaks* Double R Diner show dressed in latex diner dresses, where Miranda put doughnuts on my heels while I was on all fours. We poured coffee, cream, doughnuts and cherry pie over each other. Hot, even if I say so myself!

Miranda: We get up to quite a bit. I also have fond memories of a shoot in a hotel room in Manhattan… we were both wearing gorgeous harnesses and fully-fashioned stockings, and there was lots of climbing around on top of each other in the lovely king size bed, with moody staring deep into one others’ eyes. Mmmmm…

Elegy: Miranda was sitting on top of me on the bed wearing one of my own latex designs for part of it. It was a beautiful moment.

Is it true that you guys really bonded over a mutual love of dinosaurs?

Miranda: Of course! Early in our friendship Elegy posted online about having a dinosaur party, and saying she was going to be a velociraptor (my favourite dinosaur). It was one of many moments when I said to myself, “Yes. Yes this one’s a good ’un.” A *deep* bonding moment!

Elegy: When I learned that Miranda loves dinosaurs, it made me love her even more because, let’s face it, a person who loves dinosaurs must be a great human being, right?

Why do you love dinosaurs so much?

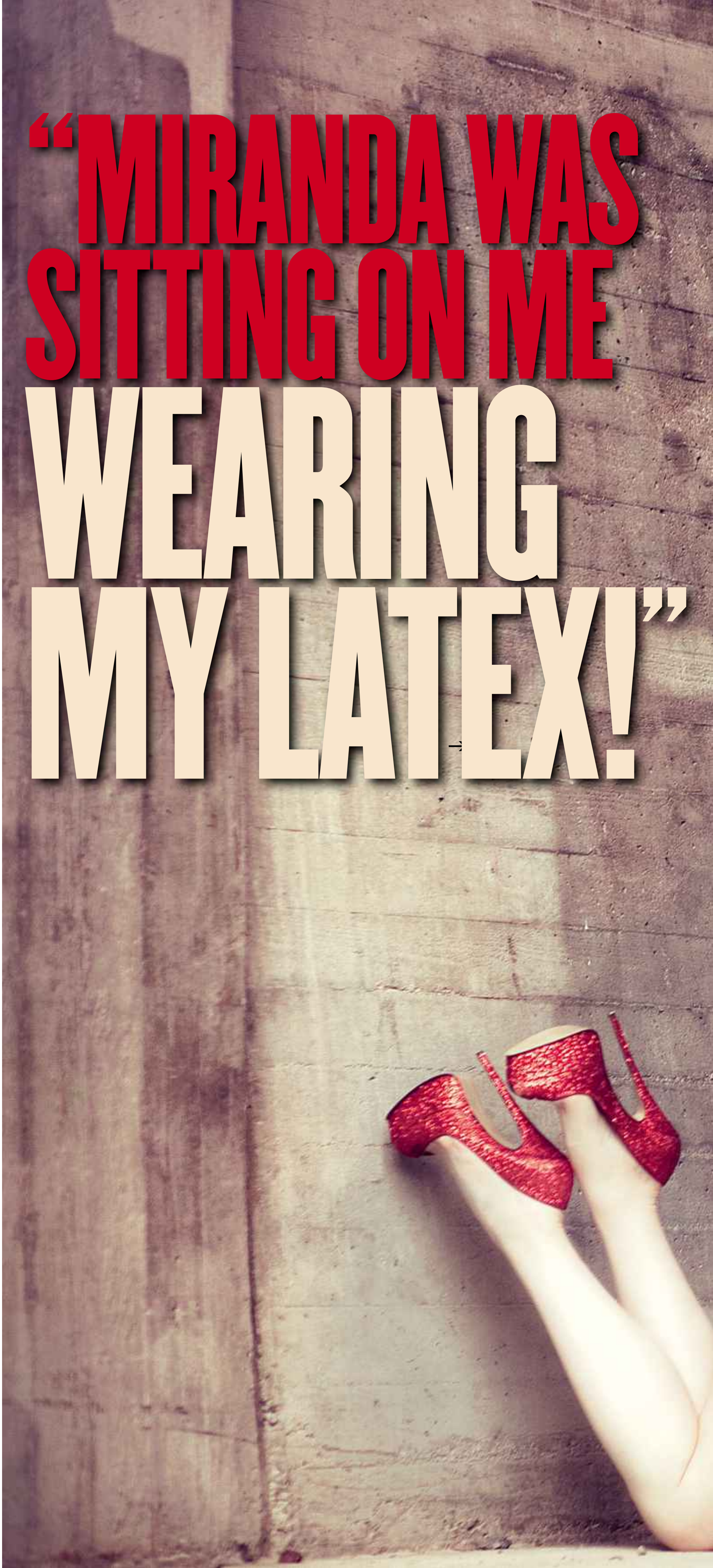
Miranda: They were these incredible creatures that look like mythical beasts, but were *real*. They’re like a bridge between fantasy and reality. When I was a kid, I loved dragons, so growing up and learning about dinosaurs was like discovering dragons were real!

Elegy: They’re huge lizards. I mean, how can you not love that?

Miranda: I’ve always loved reptiles, ever since I was tiny. And amphibians. And molluscs. And cephalopods. And beetles. And moths. And arthropods in general. I have a soft spot for the underdog creatures that people think are gross.

True or false: the tallest dinosaurs were the Brachiosaurid group of sauropods, who grew up to 18.5m tall?

Elegy: Many people might think this is the case but it’s in fact false. The tallest dinosaur was the →



> “MIRANDA WAS SITTING ON ME WEARING MY LATEX!”

not so well known Hugosaurus. It grew up to 50m tall and it could fly. And spit acid. I know this is fact because I discovered this dinosaur myself when I worked as a paleontologist, but I never published my discovery through fear of ruining the way that the world saw dinosaurs. Ahem…

Incredible stuff, Elegy. Do you have any theories as to what would happen if you put Godzilla inside Jurassic Park?
Miranda: *Gojira* would shit all over it. Literally *and* figuratively. He's a badass.
Elegy: Velociraptors would probably attack him before he realised where he was and eat him alive. Or he'd get into a fight with a female T-rex only to realise they're meant for each other, have weird sex, and then breed furry little dinosaurs.
Miranda: Hmmm, yeah – that sounds a lot more plausible, actually.

Ironically, we're running a feature on animal roleplay in this issue. If you did animal roleplay, what animals would you like to be, and what sort of fun do you envisage having?
Elegy: Obviously dinosaurs. Or an aardvark! I love aardvarks! I have several performances where I'm dressed as animals: a bunny, a bee, a fox etc. Who doesn't love animal roleplay?
Miranda: We're putting together a cat double act for the stage, and that won't be anything like any other cat act in existence. Elegy loves woodland creatures and we want to do an act along those lines, so maybe something with hooves and antlers, while frolicking in a snowy forest.

Do you have any unusual fetishes?
Miranda: I have a fetish for shoes that is fiercely intense. I get excited just by seeing the angle of a heel, and I'll be overcome by an almost panic-like urge to touch the shoe, or better yet, try it on. Putting on the right pair and feeling the stretch across the front of my foot and the compression at the back of my ankle is incredible. I'm a confident person, but in the right heels I'm unstoppable. My slightly more unusual fetishes are sock suspenders on guys. And leather driving gloves. They have to be perfectly fitted, though.
Elegy: I find it incredibly sexy watching someone hot smoke. There's something about the glow of the cigarette, seeing someone inhale this poisonous thing, enjoy it, and then release the smoke from their lips. I love how they touch the cigarette, the way they flick the ashes, and then stomp on the cigarette when finished. The entire process is very satisfying.

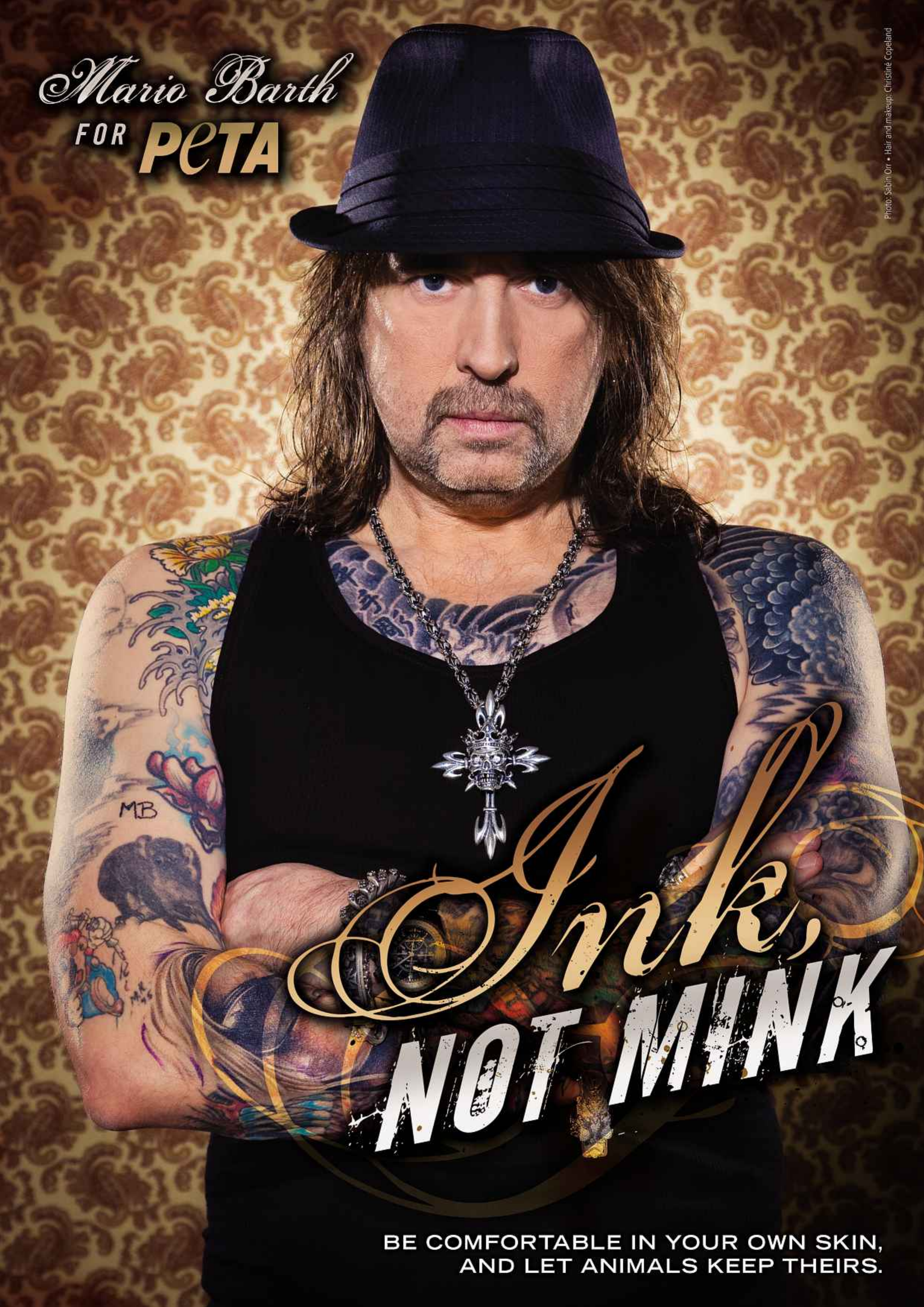
Elegy, can you recommend us any smoking fetish websites?
Elegy: I don't go for the usual sites, I enjoy the less obvious and less forced smoking photos, videos, GIFs and such so much more. I find it everywhere. In blogs, in people's private photos, when I'm outside… People smoke all over the place. I have so many amazingly hot friends that smoke, and they all know I perv over them.

Miranda, you put an amazing fact on your biography: you are related to the author of *Peter Pan*, JM Barrie? What relation are you, and when did you find that out?
He is my great, great, great uncle! I've always known, it's no secret.

Do you ladies dream of never getting old?
Miranda: Not really… As Peter Pan discovers in the story, it's a tragic thing to never grow up. Growing up is when we discover our sexuality and our ability to love and have meaningful relationships. Peter gets to stay young forever, but he can never experience those things – he's incomplete. That's his curse. To me, the message of the book is to try to hold on to the vitality and imagination that Peter has – that is synonymous with childhood – and carry it through your entire life, and into all your relationships – platonic, sexual and otherwise.
Elegy: Both yes and no. I enjoy getting older. The world gets bigger and smaller at the same time. As I age, I realise more and more what things to value and what to spend energy on. I feel more confident each year that passes. But at the same time I have a bit of age anxiety. It's not that I mind being a year older, it's the fact that a whole year has passed and I still haven't found my doorway to Narnia, my own dragon, my secret magical powers, or met my werewolf / vampire breed husband yet.

Right, you've been contracted to make a fetish video with a Peter Pan theme and Captain Hook is in it. You have 50 words to tell us what happens. Go!
Miranda: Ha! Latex outfits, naturally. Captain Hook's hook would double up as some sort of butt-plug appendage. Peter's costume would magically transform into a crocodile, and end up eating Hook. Yeah?
Elegy: Miranda and I will be dressed in our finest latex. We will first make the captain use his hook in a new creative way. Then he will spend a long time licking our high heel boots clean, while we wave a clock in front of him. Tick tock…

Someone get these girls a camera! Miranda, is it true that you were once 'discovered' by Marilyn Manson?
Miranda: Ha, yes. I managed to wangle my way into the VIP area to the launch party for his *The Golden Age Of Grotesque* album in 2004. →



Mario Barth
FOR PETA

Ink, NOT MINK

BE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR OWN SKIN,
AND LET ANIMALS KEEP THEIRS.

Photo: Sabin Orr • Hair and makeup: Christine Copeland

"I HAVE A FETISH FOR SHOES!"

I guess I was pretty unusual looking – white blonde hair and super pale skin like some sort of Victorian albino, with a tiny doll twin called Mimei. I literally stared at Marilyn for nearly a full hour, but I evidently caught his eye, because he walked up to me and said, "You look amazing – I really want to talk to you about your puppet." Both he and (then wife) Dita Von Teese chatted with me and were incredibly sweet, asking where my doll Mimei came from, how I'd made her outfit, and what had inspired me etc. It was an incredible moment. Before we said goodbye I gave Marilyn a tiny letter I'd written just in case I got to meet him, telling him how grateful I was for the message in his work and how much it had helped me stay strong growing up among people who told me I was a freak.

What was Marilyn like?

Miranda: Amazing. Obviously I was a huge fan and incredibly excited, but he gave me a lot of his time and seemed genuinely interested in talking to me, it was such a huge compliment. He could tell how much it meant to me, yet he wasn't patronising or sleazy in *any* way – which you might expect from a major rockstar talking to a 17-year-old girl wearing a Japanese doll outfit! He invited me backstage for his UK tour dates, and to see him on *Top Of The Pops* and the *Jonathan Ross Show*.

I chatted to Dita a few times, and she was so sweet too. But I saw her after her show at Erotica 2010, where I was also performing, and she didn't seem too happy to see me. Perhaps I misread the situation, but when I asked if she remembered me, she said "Oh yes, I remember you. You were the number one Marilyn Manson fan, weren't you?" It sounds like their break up was pretty nasty, so maybe I just brought back hard memories? I have nothing but fond memories of meeting them both in the past, though, and wish them the best. →

"IF WE JUST PLAY NAKED WE SHOULD BE OK!"

Elegy, you're a heavily inked and pierced hottie. Tell us about it.
Elegy: The whole idea of needles penetrating skin and the blood both fascinated and scared me – and I hate being scared of things, so I got a piercing when I was 13. It was a horrible experience. I'm pretty sure the guy performing it was drunk or on drugs. I bled so much I almost fainted. But it became a new found love, so I kept going. My ex got me the most amazing Valentines present a while back: a tongue split! He had one himself, and I just loved kissing him. I enjoy the whole process of inking and modding, from getting them done to the healing to the final result. I guess I've found another fetish of mine: pain through body modification.

Miranda, you've been doing yoga for 10 years. What's the bendiest position you can get into?
Miranda: Hmmm… maybe 'bird of paradise'?

Elegy, can you do better than that?
Elegy: I'm quite bendy myself! I've been doing yoga, dancing and professional stretching classes for a long time as well. I can put my feet behind my head! It's the best party trick in the world.
Miranda: Mmmmm…

Elegy, you play the flute and Miranda plays the musical saw. You guys could start one of the kookiest bands ever!
Miranda: I'll see if I can clear some time for band practice. Elegy, what do you say?
Elegy: Let´s do it. I vote we only play Marilyn Manson covers. I hope Miranda can sing or it´ll just be a flute and a musical saw. But then again, if we just play naked we should be OK.
Miranda: Agreed!

So what would your musical influences be?
Miranda; Top three: Tom Waits, Nine Inch Nails, Jolie Holland. They're different and amazingly similar at the same time. Think about it.
Elegy: My favourite musicians at the moment would be 16 Horsepower, Nine Inch Nails, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Tom Waits. I'm not sure how they'll inspire my flute playing.

As buddies, tell us the sexiest thing about the other? And no peeking at each other's work.
Miranda: I love how genuine Elegy is. She is as comfortable being silly and dorky as she is being a smoking hot sex kitten. She has an ability to express sexuality through her body and facial expressions; she doesn't just look hot physically, she expresses character and mood, that's what sets her apart from other models and performers. She's creative, intelligent, passionate, talented and an amazing friend.
Elegy: Obviously Miranda is an incredibly sexy woman. She has the most perfect body I've ever seen and such a unique and gorgeous face that I don't even know where to begin! I think the sexiest thing about her is how down-to-earth she is when she's not modelling. She's so comfortable with herself enough to just head out without makeup and enjoy life, and see more depth in the world than what it shows on the outside. And she's smart and interesting, too. And on top of that she is a great friend. She's awesome!

See more of Miranda and Elegy at MissMiranda.com, Twitter.com/_MissMiranda, ElegyEllem.se, Facebook.com/ElegyEllemModel and Josefinejonsson.com

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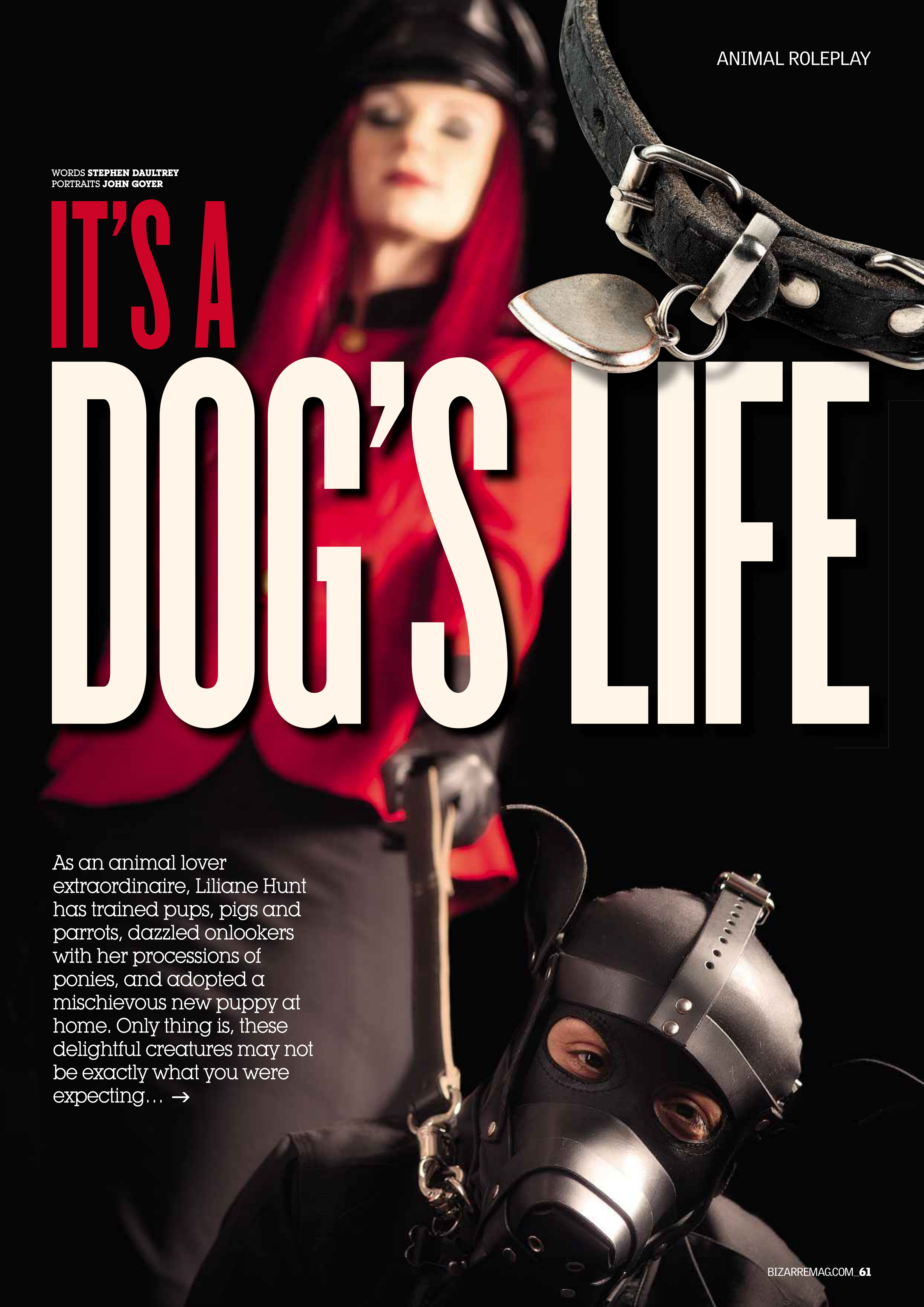


WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
PORTRAITS **JOHN GOYER**

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

As an animal lover extraordinaire, Liliane Hunt has trained pups, pigs and parrots, dazzled onlookers with her processions of ponies, and adopted a mischievous new puppy at home. Only thing is, these delightful creatures may not be exactly what you were expecting… →

Strolling through a park can often double up as navigating your way across a minefield of canine-themed obstacles. Noisy Jack Russells yapping at your ankles, randy Labradors rogering in full view of the kids, and dollops of camouflaged puppy poop grubbying your white jogging shoes; it can all add up to a typical relaxing afternoon in the chilly British air. But unless you've regularly traversed the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, US, the chances are you won't have met a pooch quite like Tyke. "I usually take him out there at least once a week when I can," reveals Tyke's proud owner, Liliane Hunt. "We are blessed we can do that in this city. People will ask me what we're doing and sometimes it draws a crowd, but we've never had a negative response. It's always been, 'Wow! That's so cool!'"

In case you haven't sussed, 'Tyke' is human. But he doesn't always walk upright or speak the Queen's English. Tyke also has a Doberman puppy alter persona, which he likes to indulge at every available opportunity. Liliane, an English-born mistress and performer, functions as his trainer and doting owner. The pair have been sharing a home for the last 18-months in San Francisco, California – the earth's capital of liberation and self-expression – having initially struck up a friendship on Facebook. And they have a whole *lotta* fun.

"For a while, I'd been searching for a human animal that I could train up and see how far we could take it," sparkles Liliane, all bright eyes, striking red hair and porcelain skin. "There's not a sexual dynamic between us. It's a really deep connection and friendship. I train him. It's like learning to dance with a partner."

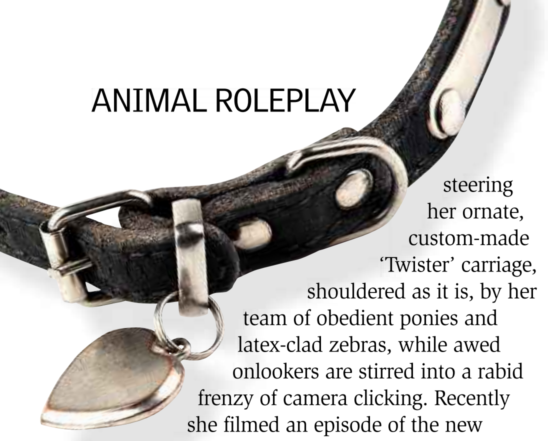
GIVE THE DOG A BONE(R)

Animal roleplay is exactly what it says on the (Whiskas) tin. Players create and immerse themselves into the mindset of an imaginary animal character, mimicking a real-life creature's behavioural traits and mannerisms. Activities are vast and depend on the type of animals and the dynamic between players, but typically involve grooming, petting, feeding, riding, learning tricks, crawling around on all fours and, in the case of ponies and workhorses, lugging a cart around. The most popular types of animals are canines (especially 'puppy play'), felines (which includes leopards, tigers etc), equines (such as in 'pony play') and to an extent, foxes. Often, a partner will assume the role of a trainer, owner, rider or carer, which is where Liliane comes in.

Liliane is a popular ambassador for the animal roleplaying scene. She discovered it for herself by spotting a latex pony at a fetish club in the city in the early 2000s, becoming instantly captivated. She befriended Rebecca Wilcox, author of the pony girl bible *The Human Pony*, featured in *Bizarre* back in 2010. Charismatic and smart, and with a background in theatre, Liliane has almost become the go-to-face of animal roleplay, her flamboyant career path has seen her train hundreds of 'human animals', from puppies and ponies to magical, off-piste beasts such as dragons, werewolves and unicorns. She hosts events and activities with her collective 'House Of Hunt', performs at fetish clubs (mostly in America but she's desperate to come to the UK), and can often be seen at events, →

PICTURES: DALUKE; JOHNORVIS.COM; MAX KOO; JOHN GOYER

“THERE’S NOT A SEXUAL DYNAMIC BETWEEN US. IT’S A DEEP FRIENDSHIP”



steering her ornate, custom-made 'Twister' carriage, shouldered as it is, by her team of obedient ponies and latex-clad zebras, while awed onlookers are stirred into a rabid frenzy of camera clicking. Recently she filmed an episode of the new series of *Taboo* for the National Geographic Channel, which earned her praise for portraying the scene in a positive light and helping it trot towards mainstream acceptance. To Liliane, filming was a chance to eradicate misconceptions that erotic animal roleplay is exclusively about degradation, humiliation and S&M beatings. "That's not true at all," says Liliane.

"Animal roleplay has been put under this umbrella of BDSM [Bondage, Discipline, Sadism, Masochism] by a sensationalist media and people who don't know anything about BDSM," she points out. "We're an alternative lifestyle group. What I do is about self-empowerment and creativity. It's about connecting with a part of yourself and being free to express whatever you want. If you want to be a zebra, be a zebra! I think so many people in life are numb because they don't pursue what makes them feel passionate or excited. Of all the human ponies that I've met their one overriding quality is of exhibitionism. It's about what they're wearing, how they look and having a real sense of pride from being out at the front.

"Of course, the roleplay is still very intimate and psychologically connecting. For instance, I'll groom a pony that has become hot and sweaty from pulling me around in a cart all day. But it's not sexual to me. That's not to say there aren't ponies who enjoy BDSM, or that there are couples who have a pony / puppy trainer dynamic and sex is a part of their thing."

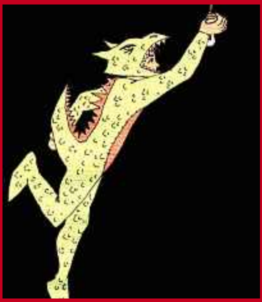
PUPPY LOVE

Tyke's human persona is 33-years-old, but his canine identity is a one-year-old(ish) Doberman. Liliane recalls how they first met in person over tea to discuss his animal self, which involved choosing a breed and exploring his roots and motives ("my theatre background," observes Liliane, "that's what I do with all my human animals"). They arrived at the mischievous yet dutiful and aspiring guard dog that Tyke inhabits. Liliane teaches Tyke dog commands in German – a language that he doesn't speak – in order to help the sprightly young pup further distance himself from the human mindset during playtime.

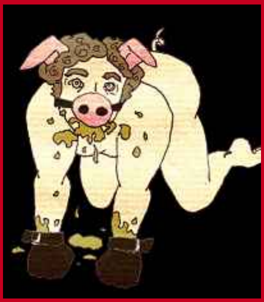
By day, Tyke works in the city, so he (grudgingly) returns to human mode for those sanitised, thrill-less hours, but back at home he slips into his puppy persona as much as possible, wearing swat gear including knee and elbow pads, which are almost essential health kit for those hours spent crawling around. He also wears a snout and ears mask. According to Liliane, he would indulge his puppy side all the time if he could. Frustratingly, that's not been possible recently due to the number of performances and fetish events that both he and Liliane have had to

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

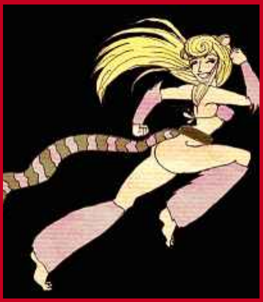
Puppies and ponies may be the most popular Liliane has met and worked with, but she has trained a Noah's Ark of magnificent creatures. Here are five of the less obvious ones…



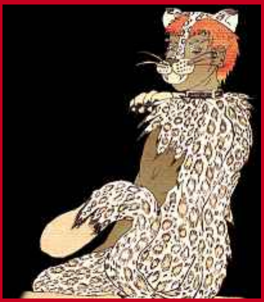
DRAGON
"The dragon I trained was a tall house dragon, so he changed lightbulbs and did top shelf stuff while wearing his cotton dragon skin. He'd studied dragons his whole life and liked the scales on his back to be stroked."



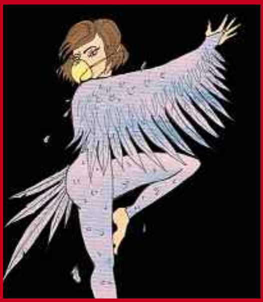
PIG
"The last pig I worked with loved chocolate truffles, so we used to play truffle hunting. This was an immeasurably sticky game, which he approached feverishly with much oinking, snorting and snuffling."



LEMUR
"The last time I recall the lemur she was being pursued by a pack of human hunting dogs, running through thick thorny undergrowth, wearing little else but some strategically placed fur. She was utterly fearless."



SNOW LEOPARD
"The snow leopard has two skins, one that is shiny and sleek, the other that is furry. Although his physique and large fangs can appear intimidating, he moves with a very gentle gait and enjoys being petted."



BLUE MACAW
"I saw the only human Blue Macaw I've ever seen at the local animal roleplay munch Stampede. She was stringing together her fantastic plumage of blue feathers. I never heard her speak as she was too far away!"

ILLUSTRATIONS: MISS BRITAIN KITTEN

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"WHAT I DO IS ABOUT SELF-EMPOWERMENT AND CREATIVITY"

rehearse for ("it's event season, but we finish next week," sighs an exhausted Liliane). But Liliane still tucks him up in bed at night as part of their "daily routine" and takes him to the park when she can. He also eats out of his own dog bowl, although finding a balance between what's realistic and what's safe is imperative, something Liliane teaches in her many private classes.

"Tyke eats the majority of his meals out of his own dog bowl, even if he's eating crisps in human mode," explains Liliane. "But there are safety precautions to heed. You can't feed your human dog biological dog food. Some people will disagree with that, but there are health reasons to abide by. But I make him human food that resembles dog food, even though it's not. Also, the shape of the human body dictates that we raise his bowl slightly so that he can digest the food better rather than eating off the floor."

Going to the toilet presents another sticky patch – almost literally – for a human animal. It doesn't take a top-drawer vet to point out that humans peeing on all fours get wet and messy. "That might work on a kinky weekend in the woods if you enjoy that sort of thing, but if you're in an apartment it's a little less practical," warns Liliane. "But I've done it where a human animal is in full immersion. If you don't have a backyard, they can maybe climb into a bath on all fours, or have puppy pads on the floor. But you don't really want the dog peeing all over your living room carpet. As for number twos, the human animals are on their own for that!"

PICTURES: JOHN ORVIS / JOHNORVIS.COM; JAMIE; AJ

PEDIGREE CHUMS

Tyke isn't the only dog in Liliane's household. The duo also share their home with two real dogs, or as Liliane refers to them 'bio dogs': Jed and Sheba, a Chihuaha Pomerian and Chi Weenie respectively. Tyke doesn't share a feeding bowl with them for hygiene reasons, but is always content to spare them his own leftovers. The moment Liliane describes this, one of her bio dogs eagerly leaps onto her lap, and considers her with sheer excitement and bright, affectionate eyes. Is he hungry or just seeking attention? Either way, it doesn't distract us from asking the question we really want to know: how does Tyke interact with the bio dogs, and how do the bio dogs react to the odd-looking canine / man hybrid as he scampers around with them?

Liliane flashes her warm smile: "You know, the first time one of the bio dogs met Tyke, it was puzzled. It was going, 'I don't know what you are. You're moving differently and you don't quite look like a human.' I always advise caution when introducing a human dog to a bio dog because the latter will need a few minutes for them to process what is going on."

Yet despite the cautionary warning, strange things do happen. During filming for National Geographic, Liliane recalls how a woman with a bio Doberman dog entered the fray. Instantly, the TV crew were goading Tyke to interact with the dog. Liliane responded by delivering a lecture about the potentially complicit relationship that may initially exist between the roleplayer and biological counterpart. "But the minute after I said all that, this great big, fully grown Doberman was playing with Tyke as though they were life-long best buddies and it was second nature," she recalls. "The dog's owner, a very vanilla, middle-class woman remarked that she couldn't believe how similar they are in their movement and behaviour! It was ironic that National Geographic were filming right then, because that doesn't normally happen. Like, if you're a human lion, you hopefully don't try and climb into the lion enclosure at the zoo…"

Maybe not the lion pen, but it seems some human animals are still overly keen to befriend their furry friends where they can. At San Francisco Pride festival last June, where Liliane's crew were waiting to take part in a procession, one of her human wolves made a beeline for a couple of bio Pibull dogs in the crowd. →

“WE DID EVERYTHING FROM DRILLING TO GASMASK FETISH”

PICTURE: JOHN GOYER

“The pitbulls were like, ‘What. Are. You?’” recalls Liliane. “But in a few minutes, the wolf had them playing with him. There’s not a guarantee that a bio dog will play in that way. The fundamental rule is consent. If the dog is scared and intimated, back off. Don’t force something that is uncomfortable for them.”

ANIMALS ON PARADE

2012 was an exceptionally busy year for Liliane. Just in the month we spoke, she had taken a class on wolves, which explored the history and mythology of these magnificent but dangerous beasts. She performed at the Fulshom Street Fair, a BDSM / subculture festival held annually in San Francisco. On that day, at exactly 1pm, there was a group howl where every dog or wolf in attendance gathered to howl in unison.

Then there was the gothic show she put on at the 2nd Annual Masquerata Ball, again in San Francisco, which featured a pony and puppies in Victorian clothes. But perhaps even more exhausting are the grand activities that Liliane organises herself. One of her big success stories of 2012 was the military training camp that she hosted in the local woods.

“There was a number of human puppies who were all ex-military, so I wanted to create an event where we could channel that energy which wasn’t just trotting around a park,” she says, ever the imaginative firebrand. “We turned it into a military mystery weekend, set vaguely between World War I and World War II. We did everything from drilling ceremonies to having a gasmask fetish thing on the Saturday. That’s when I started studying service animals in the military and how I could apply it to animal roleplay, you know, like horses in World War I and drug sniffing dogs in Afghanistan. It was a way of combining play for people who are service oriented. And we raised a heap of money for an animal charity!”

Liliane’s events and activities, which she began putting on in 2007, are proving increasingly popular, and are starting to attract all types of fetishists and people with subversive tastes, not just the animalistic roleplayers. It seems that there’s something deep, primal and spiritual in all of us that connects to a feral (or domesticated?) side. “Animal roleplay is becoming more acceptable, and perceived as less extreme and something that’s kinda cool,” agrees Liliane. “That’s largely because there’s better reporting on it, and people are going into it with an open mind rather with a preconceived idea of it being weird.”

So where did Liliane’s own interest stem from? Surely there was something far deeper nestled inside her, something that was awakened the moment her gaze was snared, by that stupendous pony creature at the fetish club… There’s a glint in Liliane’s penetrating eyes. She nods: “I had this background in theatre, but I knew it must’ve started long before this, so I started psychoanalysing myself. That’s when I realised that my parents had brought me up on Beatrix Potter books. I’ve gone on this full circle from being a little child reading stories of humanising animals, and now I’m animalising humans! How cool is that?”

The new series of *Taboo* is currently airing on the National Geographic Channel. Check listings for details. For more on Liliane Hunt, visit Mistressliliane.com; Liliane Hunt.com; Twitter.com/LilianeHunt; LilianeHunt.Tumblr.com

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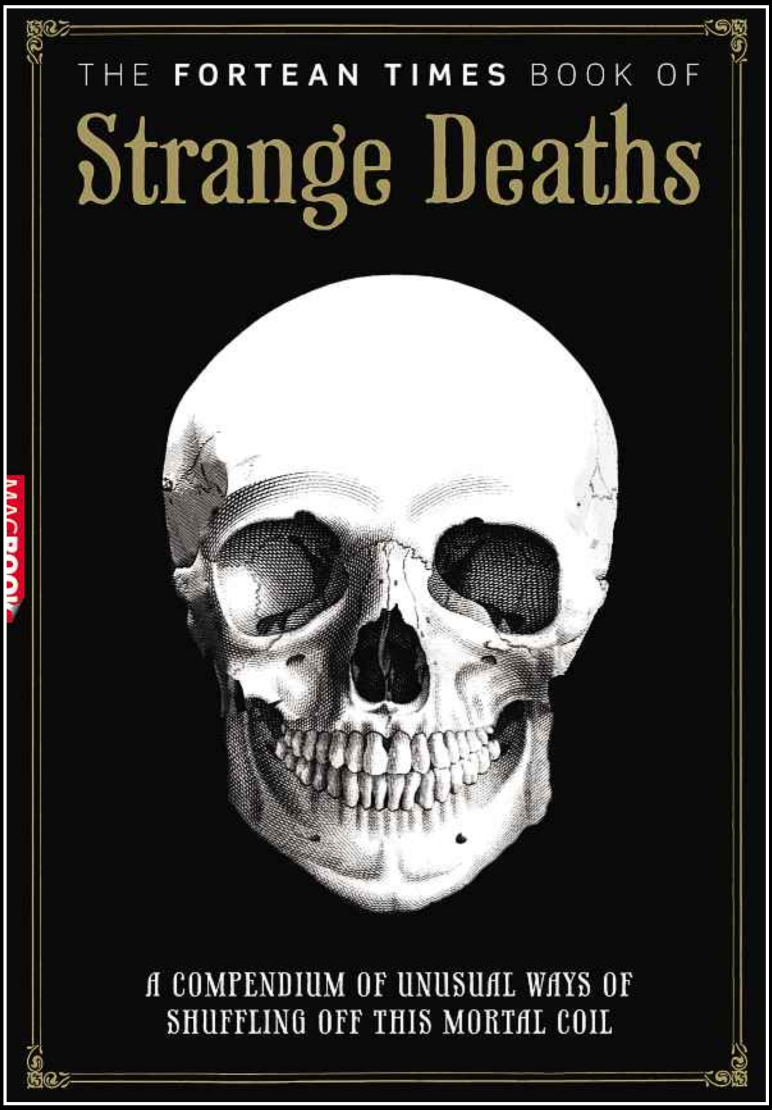
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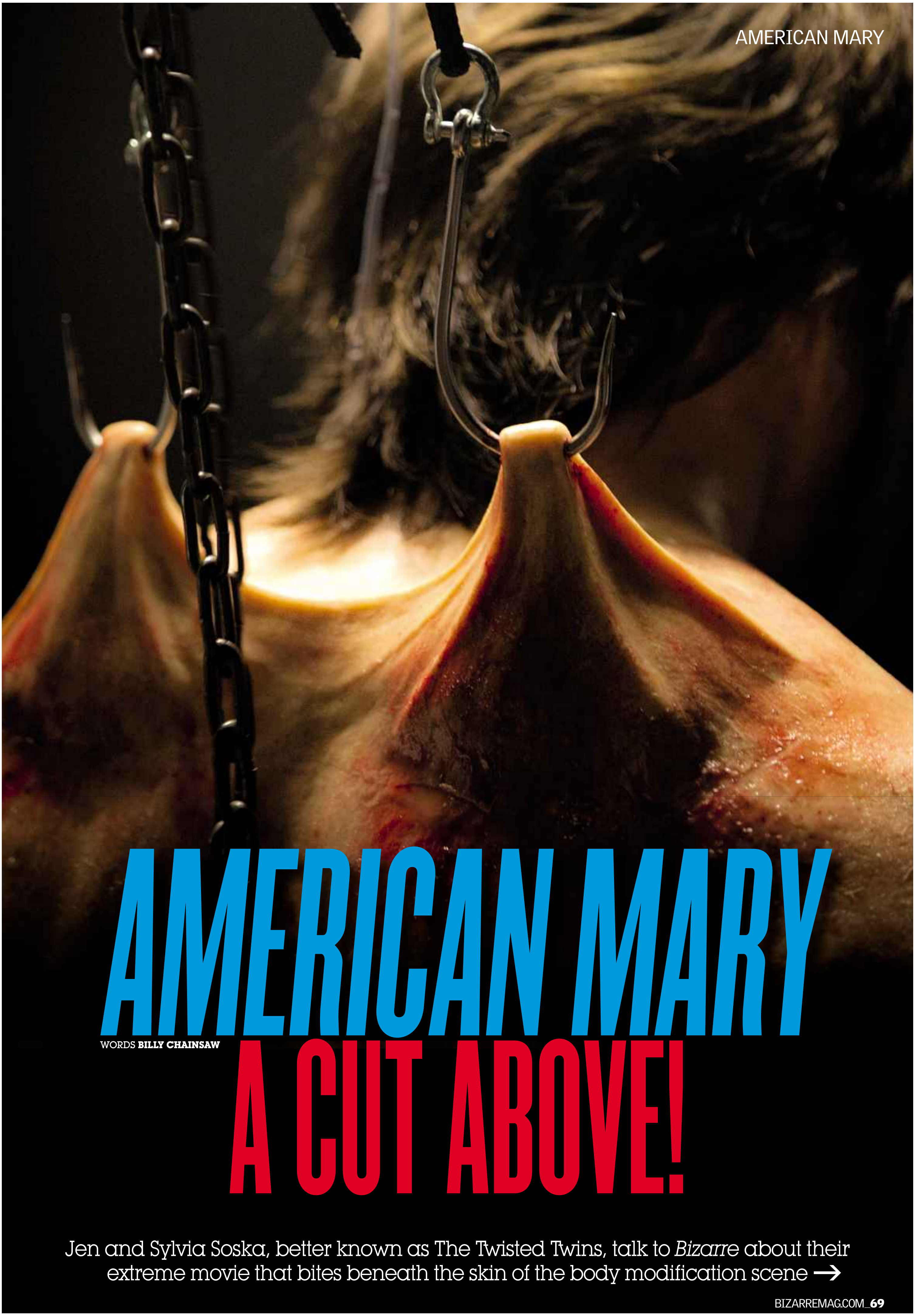

AMERICAN MARY

WORDS **BILLY CHAINSAW**

A CUT ABOVE!

Jen and Sylvia Soska, better known as The Twisted Twins, talk to *Bizarre* about their extreme movie that bites beneath the skin of the body modification scene →

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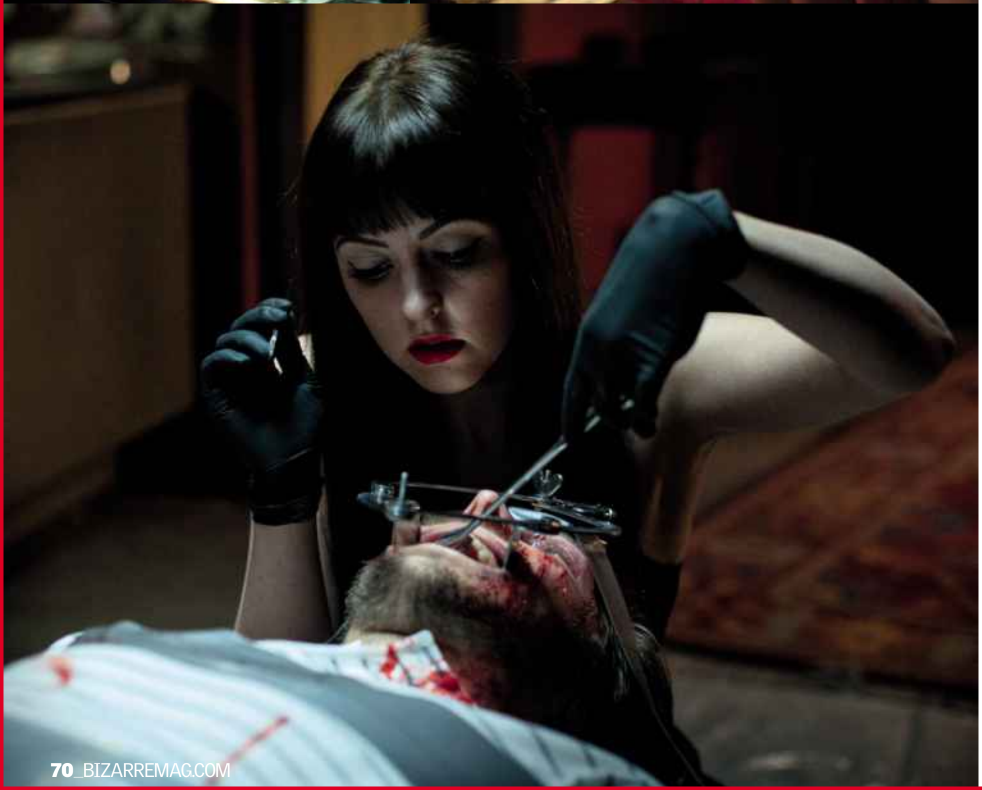

Cut to the chase: *American Mary* is one of the most emotionally charged and imaginative horror thrillers ever made. Written and directed by Jen and Sylvia Soska (AKA the Twisted Twins, pictured left) it dispenses with the trash aesthetic that made their 2009 debut, *Dead Hooker In A Trunk,* so balls-out enjoyable, and hones in on body modification subculture.

The terrifying, yet deeply emotive, tale tracks a medical student (a disturbingly magnificent Katharine Isabelle – yes, she from *Ginger Snaps*) and her attempts to make money when her career as a surgeon goes hideously tits up. Desperate for money, she becomes embroiled in the world of underground, illegal surgery – a move that proves that sometimes success comes with a hefty price tag.

With the Soska's sexy, chilling and cerebral vision unleashed on DVD and Blu-ray, we had to quiz them about themselves and their film.

Do you lead what would be termed alternative lifestyles outside of filmmaking?

SYLVIA: Actually, we're really boring, mostly. But our mom told us never to judge people on appearances, so we have a lot of friends who have very interesting, alternative lives. I know girls that are escorts, and girls that do body modification. Jennifer and I used to do all sorts of 'for hire' jobs: bartenders for boxing fights, and personal waitresses for the Hell's Angels.

I would joke with Jen that being identical twins was like having a VIP pass to strange adventures, because people would always be fascinated and wanted to have us around. So we would be observers of all the different kinds of cultures we'd come into contact with.

Did you have an interest in body modification prior to *American Mary*?

JEN: Yes. Sylv likes to go on the internet and find strange and unusual things. She found this one thing that turned out to be an April Fool's joke – which we didn't find out until we were filming and one of our flesh artists pointed it out. The story was about two identical twins: one of them had his arm chopped off and connected to his brother's chest-plate, and the other brother had one of his fingers removed and added to his brother's ring-finger. We thought 'to each their own', and it seemed very realistic at the time. But the thing that put us off was a love letter that accompanied it saying, you have to be identical twins to understand, and Sylv said she didn't really feel that at all. But as a result, we started researching body modification.

So a prank provided the first germ of an idea for *American Mary*?

SYLVIA: Yeah. The most interesting thing is the gentleman from the body modification community who did that [the prank]. Because there is such a stigma, it's such a witch-hunt, with people looking at members of the community as freaks, he played the prank to see how many people would fall for it – and so many people did. The allure of the absurd makes people more interested in the subject matter, rather than, "Oh, this is just something that people do as a form of expression" – they're more interested when it's more shocking. We actually have a line in the movie, that nobody will watch if nothing shocking's happening: which is a reference to →

“SLYV LIKES TO GO ON THE INTERNET AND FIND STRANGE AND UNUSUAL THINGS” what people think of the body mod community, and why people usually go to the movies to see films like *The Human Centipede*.

Neither of you are involved in the body mod community. How did you make sure that your representation is realistic?

JEN: We brought on consultants to read our script, because we didn't want to do something ignorant, or write something insulting, when we had only the best intentions. We had two flesh art consultants on the project: Russ Foxx who plays Penis Guy in the film was the main man, the person who referenced all procedures and told us the legitimacy of them and how realistic it would be to perform them. All of them are possible, except for the limb exchange, that's something that requires many more doctors, and is currently only being experimentally performed in Europe.

When designing characters like Beatress Johnson (Tristan Risk) and Ruby Real Girl (Paula Lindberg), did you draw on any body modification stories from the media?

SYLVIA: I had heard and read so much about the Barbie woman; her ideal is the western iconic beauty of the large breasts, small waist, the little button nose, the big lips, the very smooth features. So I got to thinking: what if we took it up a notch, to where she not only wanted to be like a doll, but also wanted to be the sexual representation of a doll – with no sexual organs. I remember people telling us that you have to have tits in a movie for it to sell, and I was like, "That is so ignorant, that is so fucking stupid, you wanna see tits? Well I'm gonna have them removed, I'm gonna have her breasts augmented so that they're completely de-sexualised, because that's a much more interesting representation of having nudity in a film." If you're gonna do it, have a reason for it; the nudity in *American Mary* is there for a reason, it shows the level of skill that Mary has as a surgeon.

Then I wanted to go from a blonde to a brunette, and one of the first sexualised characters was cartoon heroine Betty Boop – the animators even had shots of her flashing, a couple of frames of nudity, which was pretty extreme for back in the time when she was around, in the 1930s. So I thought it would be cool if we had a stripper who had Betty Boop as her 'power animal' (a shamanic reference to the animal totem representing one's self). Barbie and Betty Boop are both classic icons of beauty, but if you saw people that actually had surgery to look like them, you'd experience them differently – especially with Beatress, because she had so many surgeries; but it's not a perfect

→

> "THE NUDITY IN AMERICAN MARY IS THERE FOR A REASON, IT SHOWS THE LEVEL OF SKILL MARY HAS AS A SURGEON"

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xRONIx ON *AMERICAN MARY*

One of the most famous icons of the body mod scene speaks to *Bizarre* about how faithful the Twisted Twins' latest movie *American Mary* is to the community it portrays…

Regular readers of *Bizarre* will be familiar with the extraordinary Roni, AKA xRonix, as the full story about her body modification transformation was featured in *Bizarre 184*. Here we call on the professional piercer to pass judgment on *American Mary*.

When and why did you decide you wanted to change yourself?

xRONIx: I never wanted to change. I always wanted just to be who I am. It just took me a while to realise who that is, due to society's insistence on putting everything into labelled boxes. When I started thinking out of the box I realised that, to be happy, I had to walk my own path and not the one that everybody told me I should be.

How has the modification changed you mentally and emotionally as a person?

xRONIx: I'm happier. When you take yourself outside of society's norms, you begin to see what's really important in life. I've learned to accept people beyond their outward appearance and the things you're told are important by the mainstream.

What did you think when you found out that there was a dramatic work of fiction that dealt with the body modification scene?

xRONIx: Firstly I was concerned, having seen so many films that treated modified people badly or used terrible stereotypes. Then a friend who'd seen it reassured me that it treated the scene with respect, and informed me that Russ Foxx was consulting – he's a friend. For those watching the film, he's Mr Penis – sadly it was just a prosthetic!

What is you impression of *American Mary*? Are the scenes dealing with the body modification underground in the US true to life?

xRONIx: As with everything, true to life would be fairly dull, but the artistic licence in *American Mary* was very respectful and not too far from the truth.

Have you had any dealings with the underground regarding your transformation?

xRONIx: There are always people who wish to push mods further and be more extreme, obviously these are private arrangements that are done outside of piercing / tattoo shops. There are limits to what you can or can't do in a regular studio. Personally, if somebody has an idea of something they wish to change about themselves, I will give them the respect of listening to them; I would then consider the risks of what they want done, and discuss it with them fully. Obviously, I'd turn down anything that is too risky, morally dubious, or not on a consenting adult. Beyond this, it then becomes a matter between an artist and an individual.

Do you have any advice for anyone considering procedures beyond simple piercings?

xRONIx: One: research your artist well, don't choose on price, this is your body you're talking about.
Two: Listen to your artist. If they're experienced, they'll know what they're talking about.
Three: Get a second opinion. If you have doubts, good artists are happy to talk about planned work.
Four: Think of the long-term consequences.
If you're getting a very visible mod, will you be able to cope with people staring at you all the time? How will it change your every day life / work?

xRonix can be contacted at Extremeneedle.co.uk

PICTURE: ROB MILLWARD

cartoony look, you can see a few scars on her. We wanted every female character in *American Mary* to be memorable in some way.

JEN: We really wanted Beatress and Ruby Real Girl to contrast with the American ideal of what beauty is, and present cosmetic surgery against body modification. For whatever reason, body modification is still very much frowned upon, yet cosmetic surgery, no matter to what extreme, is fully accepted. We wanted to not only make sure that Beatress and Ruby were beautiful, we also wanted there to be something a little bit wrong with them, a little bit off-putting, a little bit bizarre when you look at them. And then in contrast, you'd look at the people from the body modification community, and there would be so much less obvious unusualness. I think people are most surprised about how the body mod community is so down to earth, so normal.

I really hope that the film opens a dialogue between cosmetic surgery and body modification, because there are a lot of body modifications that are considered illegal. I hate to read it, but it's often said that anybody that wants a body modification done is mentally unsound; whereas if you want your lips plumped with sheep's ass or a saline solution, or put implants into your butt, it's considered nothing wrong.

SYLVIA: The most common form of body modification is circumcision, but it's culturally accepted. So there's no reason why we should look at things that culturally are not considered acceptable and pass judgment on them. People are still getting these procedures done, but don't have the opportunity to get them done safely. It's still a surgical procedure, so it should be available so they can get it done safely.

JEN: Unfortunately, many of the surgical procedures that Russ Foxx does is fixing up other people's work. So it makes a lot of the procedures incredibly unsafe, a lot of them are done in hotel rooms, or in very sketchy situations. Especially if you're young and you're really hung up about getting this done to yourself, the information about where to go to and who to go to is simply not available.

"WE WANTED THERE TO BE SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT WRONG WITH THEM"

Neither of you have any body modifications do you?

JEN: Not yet, but I did love the look of the flesh corset in *American Mary*. I think the procedure is mostly temporary right now, but Russ told us that they're developing subdermal implants so that you can get the little caps put in your back permanently, so you can clip on rings and lace it up. I would love that, it's such a pretty look.

SYLVIA: I really wanna do body suspension, because everyone I know that's done one says it's such a unique experience that it can't be compared to anything else. Until I have the balls to do it, Russ gave me a suspension hook that I have on my Blackberry all the time, so I have a constant reminder until the day I take the plunge.

People often say that Jen and I don't enlist in the body modification culture apart from normal earring and navel piercings, but because we are identical twins, I'm so used to people judging us on appearance, people kinda looking at us like a freak show, so I really relate to people who are judged like that. Because of that, Jen and I have always been defenders of the underdog.

Aside from how cool you would look, how are you both with physical pain?

SYLVIA: I'm okay with it. Jen and I are trained kick boxers, so I'm used to getting punched in the face and things like that. But I've never broken a bone or gotten a stitch, so I think that's part of what fascinates me so much. I'd love to see how I can handle that. Jen and I used to train for four hours a day every day, and that would be gruelling and excruciating, sometimes we couldn't even walk – but I think it's a different kind of experience than actually getting hooks through your body.

JEN: There is something liberating about a little bit of suffering and being able to come through OK on the other side. Russ says that the pain is there to remind you that you're alive, and he usually attributes that to doing modifications, and especially suspensions.

SYLVIA: There's also a cool phrase we tried putting in the tag line for *American Mary* but for whatever reason it didn't happen: Elwood (Reid – consultant flesh artist on *American Mary*) used it all the time, he would say "Pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional" – and I think that's something that's true for anyone's lives. B

American Mary will be released on DVD and Blu-ray from Universal Pictures (UK) on 21 January and will open at UK cinemas on 11 January (Frightfest)

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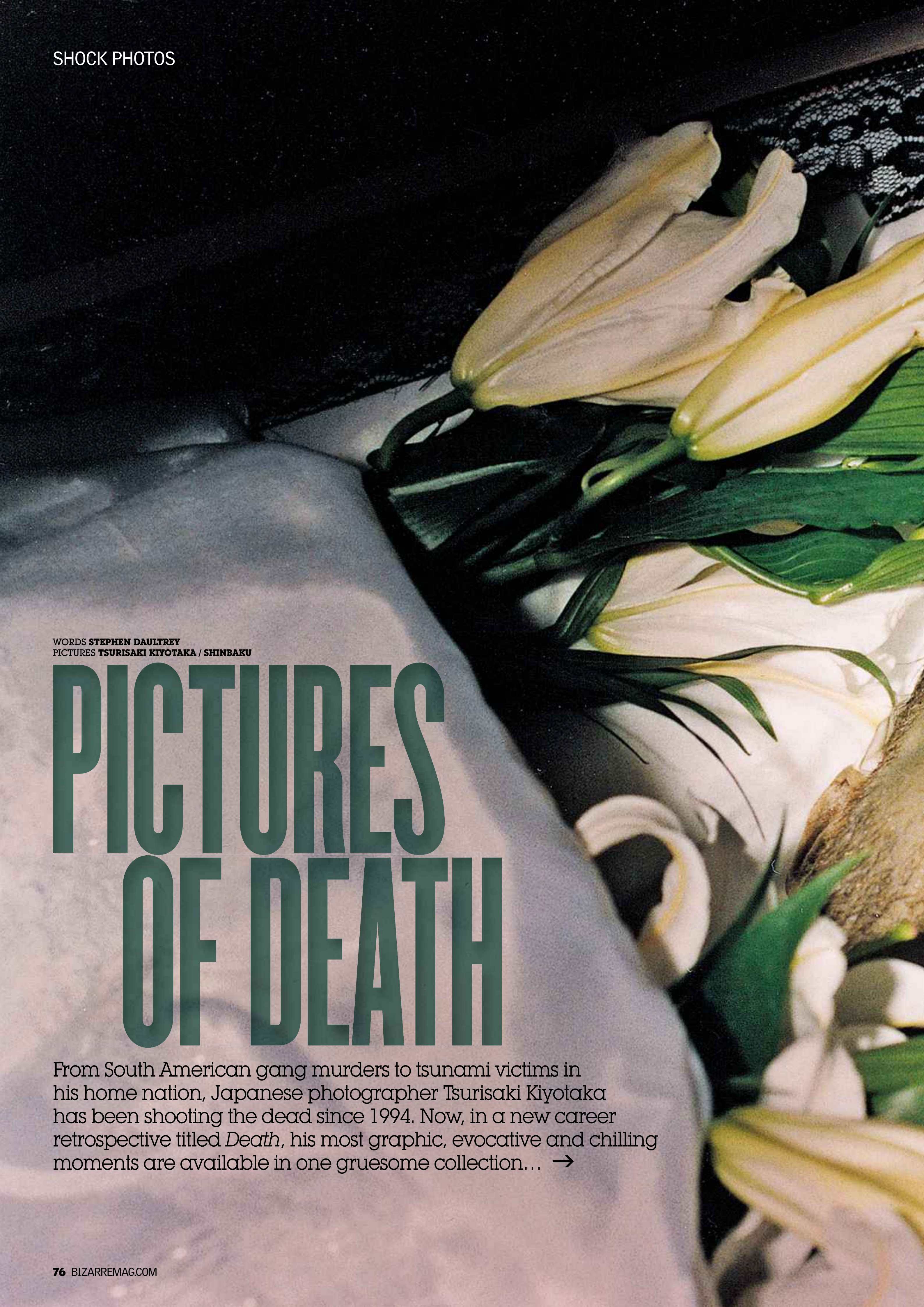

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
PICTURES **TSURISAKI KIYOTAKA / SHINBAKU**

PICTURES OF DEATH

From South American gang murders to tsunami victims in his home nation, Japanese photographer Tsurisaki Kiyotaka has been shooting the dead since 1994. Now, in a new career retrospective titled *Death*, his most graphic, evocative and chilling moments are available in one gruesome collection… →

Images of death can sometimes be as beautiful as they are shocking. John Everett Millais' 1852 painting 'Ophelia' and the underwater car scene from *The Night Of The Hunter* (1955) – the dark fairy tale that's hailed by critics as a movie classic – are just two examples where physical passing has been represented in its most romantic and delicate form.

Yet to most casual observers, finding such gothic potency in the photography of Tsurisaki Kiyotaka may be a struggle. From gangland stabbings in Bangkok to bloody car accidents in Mexico, where amputated limbs lay scattered across desolate highways, the Japanese photographer's eye on the world is brutal, unflinching and heavily explicit. The sort of images you might expect to uncover on a sicko's hard-drive rather than find hanging inside a prestigious art gallery. But, in some respects, to feel that way would be to do the lensman's talent a 'grave' disservice.

Striking a balance between art and explicit journalistic reportage, while also being graphically voyeuristic and repulsive, Tsurisaki's portrait-like photos find vivid colours in the most horrific circumstances. To the man himself, his work not only revolts against censorship and the use of death as political control by the world regimes he views as hypocritical, it represents the pursuit of the ultimate: the beauty of death.

"I believe that approaching death as closely as possible is the only way to die a martyr for beauty," he writes in the intro to his new book *Death*. "Death scenes present every possible aspect of the ultimate."

I SHOOT DEAD PEOPLE

Tsurisaki started out as budding adult filmmaker, specialising in S&M films, but his career path threw a more morbid left-turn when his production company needed someone to shoot real corpses for a new magazine. Tsurisaki accepted the challenge, and has rarely looked back since. His career has taken him to global trouble-spots in Russia, China, Thailand, Colombia, Palestine and Mexico. Over the last 18 years, he believes he's shot well in excess of 1,000 corpses, although the exact figure is difficult to estimate because of the number of shoots he's done inside morgues, where counting the individual bodies is "quite impossible".

In *Death* – Tsurisaki's first English language career retrospective – he handpicks his most powerful images. When speaking to *Bizarre*, he references two photos as being particularly memorable, including a girl's amputated right-hand which was shot at night at "an everyday accident scene on the main highway near the centre of Mexico City", and a bus-hijacker who was shot to death by a police sniper, the latter being a favourite of Tsurisaki's on account of it being a headache to shoot. "The hijacker's body was bearing bombs and was located on the bridge, well beyond the police barricade, which was face-to-face with the press," he recalls. "It was pretty hard to approach the scene, but somehow I managed it. To do so was very satisfying."

Bizarre last spoke to Tsurisaki in 2007. Since then, the Tohoku earthquake and tsunmai rocked his native Japan in 2011 (followed by the nuclear disaster at Fukushima Daiichi), claiming in excess of 15,000 lives. Of the most recent contributions to grace *Death*'s pages, there are several photos from the aftermath of that tragedy, with the lifeless bodies of victims wrapped in plastic bags against a broken, muddy backdrop. Capturing those painfully sad images wasn't easy for Tsurisaki, who found himself humbled by the courageous acts around him.

"When I visited the off-limits zone in Fukushima about a week after the megaquake, I saw brigades of police in protective suits taking great risk as they searched for the dead amongst the rubble," he tells us. "I was fascinated by their great act of humanity in the face of the disaster. I had to shake myself of that and reset my mind. It is important that I approach every dead body without any prejudice."

RISKING LIFE AND LIMB

The photographer has been shooting a lot in Mexico and China over the last decade, and claims that the latter currently provides the easiest access to corpses and yields the most "exciting" results. Yet he also believes that shooting outside his native Japan, especially in China, is filled with enormous risks. Racing to a scene of a crime in order to nail the shot often takes him to dangerous places, inhabited by dangerous people. Reports say he's been held at gunpoint, nearly kidnapped, and caught in crossfires on foreign soil. Once in Colombia, a criminal fraternity enquired about making a snuff movie which, thankfully, never came to fruition. "They belonged to the underworld in El Cartucho, Bogota, but I think so-called snuff movies don't have such valuable implications nowadays," says Tsurisaki. "We are always surrounded by cameras and easily able to find numerous homicide videos for free on the 'net. The snuff video, in the narrow sense, has vanished. And likewise, so have the Colombian filmmakers…"

Tsurisaki has encountered murder scenes on a regular basis – and studied the corpses of torture victims through his cold, steely lens – yet he says the most appallingly mutilated bodies belong to the victims of traffic accidents. In *Death* there are numerous visual testimonies to his claim, with bodies lying mangled, contorted and charred. Even for those with titanium-steeled stomachs, they make for sickening sights. "Wheels are killing machines," he observes plaintively. "I have seen many tortured-to-death scenes in Latin American countries where drug wars are rife, but the corpses at those scenes rarely look as violent as the ones at traffic accidents." →

"APPROACHING DEATH AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE IS THE ONLY WAY TO DIE A MARTYR FOR BEAUTY" TSURISAKI KIYOTAKA

“CORPSE PICTURES SHOT BY PERVERTS MAKE ME SICK. THESE ARE TAKEN WITH AN EVIL PERSPECTIVE” TSURISAKI KIYOTAKA

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Yet despite visiting these gory scenes first-hand, Tsurisaki maintains that he has never been psychologically or physically scarred. The only thing that disturbs him are the “perverts” who take or view such images for sexual gratification. “My works never hurt me and the death scenes themselves have never affected me,” he admits. “But the corpse pictures that are shot by the unknown perverts make me sick. These are taken with an evil perspective.”

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Shooting corpses for 18-odd years is a long time. Tsurisaki still finds time to indulge his original passion for film-making, though. In 2001, he made the “cruel shockumentary” *Orozco: El Embalsamador*, which followed an embalmer working in a morgue in a “lawless” part of Colombia, with the filmmaker finding particular intrigue in how this individual mourned for each victim of local violence. Again, it made for uncomfortable viewing, full of gore and tragedy. Tsurisaki himself describes the film as “a miracle for me”. His next ambition is to make a film that doesn’t have anything to do with death at all, but is instead a crusade against his home nation’s apparently changing attitudes towards sex in art and entertainment. “I’m planning a fiction porn film," he says, claiming that Japanese censorship has turned its fire onto hentai (anime/manga porn). "Sexual expression in Japan has fallen into crisis and it needs to be liberated. As a one-time porn director, that really worries me."

But after nearly two decades of shooting corpses, has Tsurisaki's perception of death changed? His answer strikes us a little vague and perhaps lost in translation, but he's clear that he recognises danger and suffering not just more than the average person, but other photographers, too. The way in which live images were broadcast on TV during 9/11 troubled him deeply, even if he's not perhaps entirely clear (to us at least) why.

"Looking back on my early days, I realised that 9/11 had become a breakthrough," he says. "Although we all see the same scenery, I see different things than others. My point of view as a corpse photographer is so unique that others can't share it. For example, when I visit the Kabukicho bar area in Shinjuku, Japan, I feel more and more danger, year by year, but my friends don't see the crucial things in our reality. There are many freelance photographers in Kabukicho wandering around, trying to photograph bloody events. But one day I saw a four-year-old beggar girl living on the street, and Japanese passers-by, including the photographers, never saw or cared about her. A Korean photographer eventually took her into custody. It's like Japanese people have gone blind. On 9/11, I felt something wrong with the live images being beamed from New York on TV. There's a feeling of wrongness with that sort of violence. It stank. Everything began to stink from that day." Ⓑ

Death: Photography 1994 – 2011 by Tsurisaki Kiyotaka is out in February, published by Shinbaku. To see more visit Tsurisaki.net

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WORDS **ALIX FOX**
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WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE

What do you call a long line of sizzling hot, rubber-wrapped, mannequin-immaculate, doll-faced females? A Barbie queue! Join *Bizarre* as we check out some of the slinkiest, kinkiest, latex-tual-sexual shots from new photographic book *High Gloss Dolls*. Forgive us, father, for we have Sindy-ed… →

“I’ve got myself a crying, walking, sleeping, talking living doll,” sang Cliff Richard way back in 1959, when people were still using sharp flints to skin animals and wild boar meat was a regular campfire dinnertime staple, rather than something you only find in an £8 wanky posh sausage. Yet despite the fact that the song’s so ancient, and that Team *Bizarre* have concerns as to why Cliff creepily prioritised his cutsey companion’s propensity to weep, the concept of the ‘living doll’ still has powerful sex appeal in 2012. It’s an aesthetic that’s explored in a new coffee table book by photographer and latex couture designer, Katja Ehrhardt, entitled *High Gloss Dolls*.

The hardback contains a multitude of images of models posing in Ehrhardt’s own form-fitting fashions, each girl exhibiting looks that could have come straight out of Sanrio’s workshop, Hasbro’s factory, or Mattel’s warehouse: the polished, perfectly moulded bodies with fewer flaws than a bungalow has floors; the mesmerisingly symmetrical features, from the doe eyes that make Bambi seem as sweet as week-old roadkill to the Lolita lips with perfect ruby cupid’s bows that ping stinging arrows of desire straight into your family jewels; the vibes ranging from innocent, angelic and enticingly compliant, to futuristic and erotically robotic. Katja has captured them all on film, and collected them together in one big, hypnotic, Sylph-vanian Family. →

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KATJA-GOOGOO

Born in Ludwigshafen, Germany, Ehrhardt was a regular on the German gothic and fetish scene in her late teens and early twenties (we love the phrase 'regular on the fetish scene' here at *Bizarre* – it makes us imagine that everyone who enjoys zip-crotched catsuits and studded spanking paddles must also eat plenty of fibre and have happy, healthy bowels that cack like clockwork). "I touched a man in tight latex trousers for the first time at a kinky party, and that was it for me – this soft, sleek, glossy, shiny material was my thing," she recalls of her inaugural experience with rubber. However, while her lust for the look and texture of latex remained steadfast, after a while she became bored of seeing crowds only ever wearing black. 'Fräulein Ehrhardt' decided that fetish fashion needed to taste the Skittles colour rainbow, and that rather than study literature as she had originally intended, she was instead going to launch her own range of clothing that embraced all the hues of the spectrum, thus allowing alternative misses and misters to be more vibrantly shady characters.

At the time, she was dating fellow latex designer Ralf Fischer. He taught her the basics, then employed her full-time, and within a few years she'd been hired to design for rubber Buddha Peter Czernich, producing collections in association with his iconic fetish fantasy magazine, *Marquis*. Her early pieces included a line of 1950s-influenced bathing suits that truly were unlike anything that existed on the rubber market at the time, and were modelled by pin-up Dita Von Teese (can we still call Dita a 'pin-up'? The Big Teese's popularity seems so cemented that perhaps 'permanently-nail-to-the-wall' would be a more suitable description). In addition to her use of colour, Ehrhardt became known for producing classy items that bore greater resemblance to high-end haute couture than they did back alley'n'basement BDSM club cheap'n'trashy 'ho couture'. "I wanted to get rubber out of the hidden fetish scene, and design clothes for 'normal' use that would attract people who perhaps hadn't considered wearing latex before," she says. "I'm not about 'fetish' as such – more 'very sexy fashion'. Even today, I don't tend to get commissions from customers who want me to make the kinds of highly unusual, off-the-wall, freaky costumes that hardcore fetish manufacturers cater for; the weirdest requests I get are for knickers with in-built dildo harnesses… which aren't really that odd in the grand scheme of things… and I still don't make them, anyway."

BOUQUETS AND BLOKEYS

The designer's refreshing ability to attract the attention of a new, non-kinky crowd to rubber is evidenced by her innovative collaborations with mainstream brands and businesses; for example, international flower delivery firm Fleurop employed her to team up with famed German florist Sabine Haller and create a set of four outfits fusing latex with real blooms, which were then presented to the company's head honchos at an extravagant fashion show in Berlin. Rather more saucily, though, she does get a plethora of men wanting to don her (frequently breast-framing) garments. "I often get guys ordering my lingerie – I can tell they're male by the measurements," she reveals. "I wish they'd let me know they were men though, as otherwise it makes it a little awkward and unpleasant if I have to enquire in order to ensure I get the cut right… one day it might be a woman after all and I don't want to accidentally offend anyone!"

MODEL BEHAVIOUR

By 2005, the *High Gloss Dolls* website had been set up to exclusively showcase Ehrhardt's creations… and she also started to shoot her own photos of models wearing them. "I got tired of asking friends to shoot new stuff every time I crafted something fresh, and then drag everything with me from one location to another, so I took matters into my own hands!" she laughs. "Ever since I started wielding a camera, I've been stunned by the strength and courage of so many of the women in my shoots; some of them are so young, yet they're travelling worldwide, managing their own careers and often studying simultaneously." Does she have any hot tips for would-be alternative models who aspire to stand out in what is rapidly becoming an over-saturated sphere of amateur wannabes? "It puts me off straight away if a model arrives for a session with chipped nail varnish or rough, blistered feet," she grimaces. "It will be noted that you're being helpful if you bring a selection of classic, delicate shoes, and →

> "I'M NOT ABOUT 'FETISH' AS SUCH, MORE 'VERY SEXY FASHION'"

"I'VE BEEN STUNNED BY THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE OF THE WOMEN IN MY SHOOTS"

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“I PREFER THE PLASTIC LOOK, I THINK NATURAL LOOKS BORING ON ME”

I always like it when girls are really good at doing their hair and make-up – it’s worth learning properly. I find that there are a lot of fantastic models in Los Angeles, so I’m hoping to head back there this Spring.”

CHARRIERE-TS OF FIRE

One of the multiple multiply-orgamsic *High Gloss Dolls* ladies to catch *Bizarre*’s eye (after we popped it out of its socket and threw it at her, just to get her attention… and the resulting partial blindness was still 110 per cent worth it) is Monique Charriere. Chatting with us about what it’s like to pose for Katja Ehrhardt, she says, “Katja’s a very funny and unpredictable person and the atmosphere with her is always great. I remember we were once shooting in a particular building that was being serviced by a cleaning lady who was well over 60 years old. She came across us during her shift, while I was wearing a particularly skimpy outfit with my boobs out, but rather than being shocked she seemed genuinely interested in the latex, and the process of dressing and undressing… a little too interested, I think! She kept staring and smiling in an intensely weird manner until we had to ask her to leave!”

TINY TEARS

Charriere’s career has seen her twist’n’pout for photographers’ lenses while semi-nude in the middle of a huge crowd of people, and she’s literally had to avoid freezing her nips off in below zero temperatures, but she reckons that the craziest situation she’s found herself in was on her very first assignment, when a snapper dropped and broke his camera… and broke down and cried himself. Awkward! It turned out that the chap had bipolar disorder, and thankfully the pair ended up laughing hysterically once he’d calmed down.

GOOD GOLLY MISS DOLLY

The idea of being cast as a ‘real life doll’ appeals immensely to Charriere. In addition to having a fascination with cosplay and anime doll face masks, she admits to a rampant “plastic surgery fetish”, clarifying, “I’m simply mesmerised by every aspect body modification. I don’t mean that I get off on injecting my face with botox or having my lips pumped and plumped up with fillers – that wouldn’t look aesthetically pleasing or be very pleasant in the long run – but I do prefer the ‘plastic’ look, as I think that the ‘natural’ look is boring on me. I recall being turned on my mannequins as a child; I loved their artificial yet exotic look, and fantasised about them. It seems strange to me that some people are so narrow-minded when it comes to modifications that I see as personal and relatively trivial, like breast implants, for example. As technology progresses, we’re slowly becoming less and less human, and I look forward to a future where we’ll be able to purchase new body parts on eBay.”

Since we’re talking about dollies, we’d be wallies not to ask Charriere a couple of playful questions. If she could choose to turn anyone in the world, living or fictional, into a High Gloss Doll Slave who would do her bidding and serve her every need for a single 24-hour period, who would she pick and what would she demand that her devoted Gimpy Dildo-ll do? “I’d insist Kate Middleton must dress in frilly pink latex knickers and stockings, and lead her round on a leash,” Charriere purrs. “The Duchess of Kent seems like such a prude, and for me that’s a certain sign she’ll enjoy being a submissive doll for me. In my experience, pople who seem prudish on the outside always turn out to be very naughty underneath! Maybe I’d turn her into a pony. That’d be an interesting sight.” And, since natural latex comes from trees, if we gave Charriere and her loyal royal steed an orchard of magic rubber trees that would grow anything she liked, what would she harvest? “I’d have the branches grow incredibly realistic inflatable Lady Gaga sex dolls,” she muses. “I have a suspicion I could make a fortune selling those.”

Perhaps she should flog one to Cliff Richard: following our misgivings about why the old crooner was so excited about a girl “crying” in addition to walking, sleeping and talking, we took a closer look at those ‘Living Doll’ lyrics, and discovered the lines “I’m gonna lock her up in a trunk / So no big hunk can steal her away from me”. Quick – someone fling him a blow-up Gaga and keep him away from the real-life High Gloss Dolls, lest they end up locked in boxes… Ⓑ

High Gloss Dolls is out now, priced £14.99 (Goliathbooks.com). To see more of Ehrhardt’s aaahhhh-rrrrrr-ousing images, take a trip to Highglossdolls.com. You can buy the whole Fraulein Ehrhardt latex collection there too: pop some rubber clobber into your trolley and transform yourself into a sheeny dolly!

HIGH
OLLS
TOO FRUITY FOR APPLE!
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THE SQUEALER

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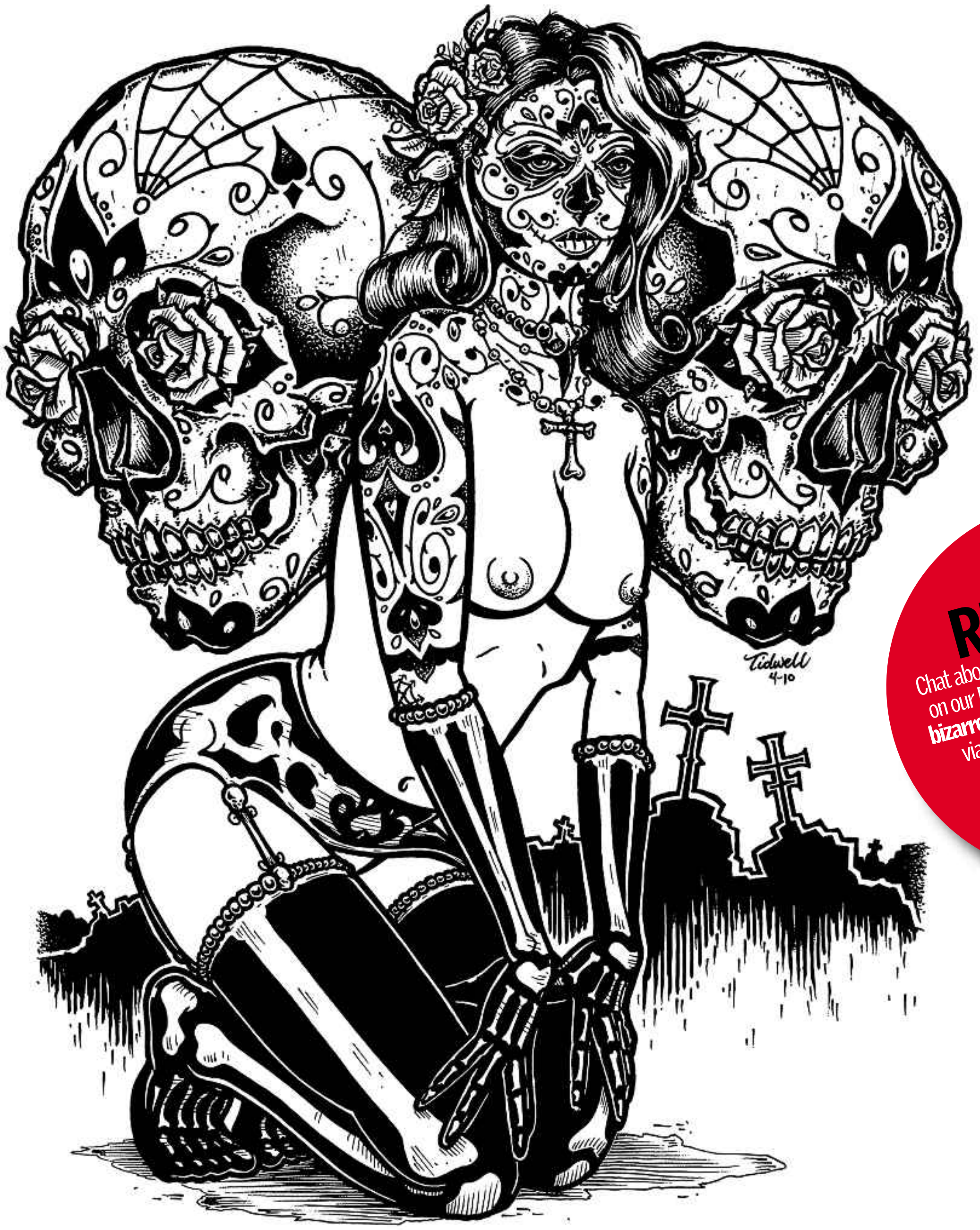
DEAD SEXY!

Artists' homage to Mexico's Day Of The Dead 114



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HOT THIS MONTH

Is your spending limited by the icy grip of recession? Then let us help you choose the best stuff money can buy until the next issue of *Bizarre* hits the shelves on **19 FEBRUARY**…

FILM

ANTIVIRAL

I got you under my skin

OUT 8 FEBRUARY

Brandon – son of David – Cronenberg's directorial debut uses illness as a metaphor for society's obsession with getting inside celebrity life. Except, in this dismal future, it's celebrity life getting inside society in the form of viruses and diseases cultured from media stars, then made available to the paying public. It's a lucrative market, and lab worker Syd March maximises his income by infecting himself with superstar viruses and selling them to his underworld contacts. Clever metaphors aside, *Antiviral* is gruesome and gory, and there will doubtless be comparisons made between Brandon's inaugural film and his father's fearful work. But with a pervading sense of bleakness, a tense, dramatic story, and a terrifying take on body horror that will put you in mind of his old man's oeuvre, the boy Cronenberg's first big screen outing is a fun and engaging shocker.

DVD

MANBORG

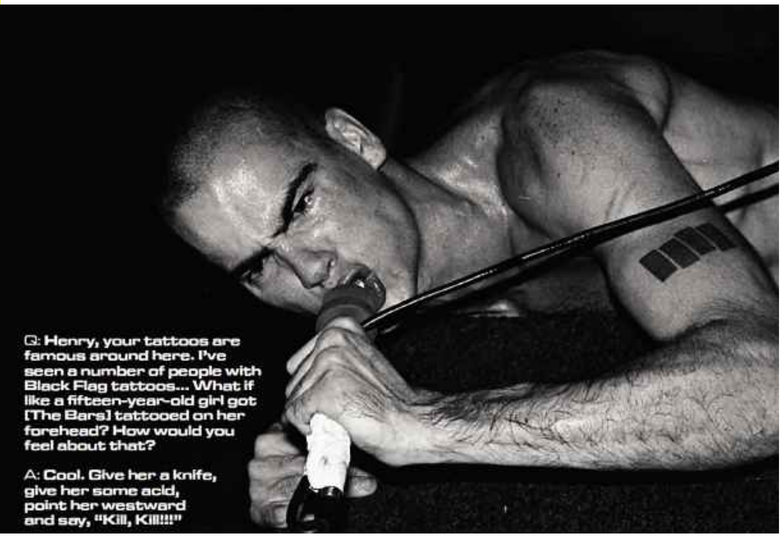
Get your game face on

OUT NOW

If watching *Manborg* makes you feel as if you've been catapulted into a vintage fighting game, good – it's supposed to.

The standard game-geek plot – in which a soldier is transformed by an evil genius into a man-robot who, with oddball mercenary chums, takes on the baddie and his legion of evil soldiers – has all the ingredients for a gory and knowingly low-rent romp... Dystopian future – check! Evil totalitarian warlord – check! Vampire soldiers – check!

Directed and written by Steven Kostanski, and made using one of the most punishingly paltry production budgets in movie history, *Manborg* is almost certainly the best use of $1,000 Canadian ever.



Q: Henry, your tattoos are famous around here. I've seen a number of people with Black Flag tattoos... What if like a fifteen-year-old girl got [The Bars] tattooed on her forehead? How would you feel about that?

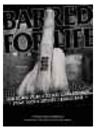
A: Cool. Give her a knife, give her some acid, point her westward and say, "Kill, Kill!!!"

BOOK

BARRED FOR LIFE

Photo-journalistic tribute to Black Flag

STEWART EBERSOLE & JARED CASTALDI
OUT NOW



With its title completed by *How Black Flag's Iconic Logo Became Punk Rock's Secret Handshake*, this stunning tome affirms the cultural significance of snarly Californian hardcore legends Black Flag, with emphasis on how their logo was adopted by fans as a sort of Masonic sign. And while the book is packed with insightful interviews and tales from inked fans and band members (but no Henry Rollins or Greg Ginn), it's Castaldi's beautiful black and white photos that are most impressive, and leap kicking and screaming from the pages.

PICTURE: PM PRESS, 2012

MUSIC

TOMAHAWK

Mike Patton supergroup conjure unusual goings-on

ODDFELLOWS
OUT 28 JANUARY

It's a given that any album featuring the stretchy-throated talents of Mike Patton should be immediately installed in *Bizarre*'s 'Hot This Month' rundown. From the perturbed animal cuties on the cover, to the spaghetti western creepiness of 'I Can Almost See Them', via the slamming alt.metal pomp of 'Stone Letter', this slab of weirdo rock – from a band that also includes members of Helmet and Jesus Lizard – is a belter. As intoxicating as it is discordant, it's like having a friendly shaman pour ayahuasca tea down your ears.

GAME

PAINKILLER: HELL & DAMNATION

A one-way ticket to Hell and back

OUT 22 JANUARY, **PS3, PC, XBOX 360**

A reboot of the much-maligned first-person slaughterfest, *Painkiller: Hell & Damnation* turbocharges the craziness of the original and repackages it in super-smooth, hyper-vivid style. To save the world, players have to battle their way through battalions of demons, and there's a natty option to team-up with another human player and share the carnage. And, when you get bored of hacking your way through the story mode, you can lose the plot completely and butcher other human players in deathmatch, team deathmatch, capture the flag and duel modes.

CHAINED

David Lynch's daughter delivers a cerebral shocker that takes you inside the mind of a killer

OUT 1 FEBRUARY

ALTHOUGH MOST PEOPLE ONLY know her as daughter of the king of weird cinema, David Lynch, this full-pelt body blow to the emotions proves that Jennifer is a creative force to be reckoned with in her own right.

The plot finds a mother and her son kidnapped by a taxi driver, whose subsequent actions leave the boy orphaned and chained-up in his basement. Worse still, throughout his years of incarceration the youngster, known as Rabbit, is forced to interact with the nutjob's murderous ways – which results in a deeply shocking climax.

Although the plot may sound simple, *Chained* is a heart-wrenching, thought-provoking affair. And while the proceedings are undeniably nasty, Lynch was evidently not interested in producing a forgettable, kill-laden horror flick. Instead, she delivers a dramatic character study that forces viewers to look inside the mind of the 'monster' and unravel the reasons behind why he commits such inhuman atrocities.

With a story delivered at a measured pace that enhances the emotional impact during the film's violent outbursts, this is a bare-bones filmmaking that's both uncompromising and visceral – but never gratuitous. Lynch's vision is also enhanced by great performances from her cast: but while both Evan Bird as the young and Eamon Farren as the older Rabbit are wholly convincing, it's seasoned professional Vincent D'Onofrio who steals the show as the tormented killer.

> A DRAMATIC CHARACTER STUDY THAT FORCES YOU TO LOOK INSIDE THE MIND OF A MONSTER

Ultimately, *Chained* is the best serial killer movie since John McNaughton's classic *Henry: Portrait Of A Serial Killer*.

Billy Chainsaw

MORE FILMS THIS WAY!

HANSEL AND GRETEL WITCH HUNTERS

She's got a wart!

OUT 2 FEBRUARY

WITCHES HAVEN'T HAD A FAIR shake of the (broom)stick in the recent torrent of supernatural, creature-themed film entertainment. But *Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters* goes some way to redressing this imbalance. Using the famous fairy tale as its foundation (gingerbread house in the forest, children in veal crates, witch's oven, you know the score...), the film flashes the action forward to find the eponymous kids now grown up into relentless and foxy witch hunters. Whatever trauma they suffered as nippers has rendered them immune to curses and spells, making them hot property as mercenary coven-busters. Director Tommy Wirkola creates a classically anachronistic 3D fantasy setting for the story to unfold, and the plot centres around the Mayor of Augsburg's need to deal with a merciless local witch and her plan to sacrifice a shedload of local kids. Ass-kicking, gory fun that takes the fairy story to new realms.

THE PUNK SYNDROME

Hey! Ho! Let's go!

OUT 1 FEBRUARY

EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT PUNK rock. It's a musical styling, an off-the-peg fashion look every adolescent scene kid can get on the High Street without ever having to listen the Ramones, whose glittery logo they wear without irony or context. But, for some, punk is a lived ideal. This is never more true than for Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät – Finland's alleged premier punk band. It's hard enough dedicating your life to the fickle world of popular music, but this band has a challenging disadvantage: each of the four members have mental health or developmental disabilities.

Punk rock has always been about finding voices for those marginalised by mainstream society, so it's a natural channel for four men with problems to vent their frustrations. But the tensions in this unsentimental documentary don't derive from the friction between 'them' and 'us', but from within the band. Like all great musical partnerships there is friction inside the camp, but the band's punk songs shrewdly address the problems of the marginalised of all kinds.

DETESTATION

CLOUD ATLAS

Can't you see this is a land of confusion?

OUT 15 FEBRUARY

IF YOU'RE HOOKED ON THE three-act film with a linear narrative leading to a satisfying conclusion, *Cloud Atlas* is not for you. This film, an adaptation of David Mitchell's (no, not that one) novel, is an ambitious threading together of a great swathe of time – past and future – that demonstrates that everything is connected. A high calibre cast including Tom Hanks, Hugo Weaving and Hugh Grant play multiple roles in a complex matrix of characters and settings ranging from a nineteenth-century slave ship to a post-apocalyptic future. This lavish, beautiful and occasionally funny work is the result of an unorthodox three-director set-up, and is an epic saga that touches on universal human themes and underlines the notion that our actions ripple on and on through time.

DVD REVIEW

THE **BEST SHINY NEW DISCS** TO SQUANDER YOUR CASH ON

SINISTER

Low on gore, but heavy on scares

OUT 11 FEBRUARY

BEFORE YOU CAN SCREAM "NOT another film about spooky dead kids!", this terror trip grabs you by the balls, squeezes, and doesn't let up until the credits roll. In fact, for a mainstream horror flick, *Sinister* is quality stuff and one of last year's most tense and unnerving movies.

Ethan Hawke stars as a true crime writer who's forged a career from exposing police screw-ups through personal investigation. When, unbeknownst to the cops, he relocates his family to the site of a murder, all hell breaks loose with the discovery of a bunch of Super 8 film reels that contain footage of brutal killings

Directed and co-written (with C Robert Cargill) by *The Exorcism Of Emily Rose*'s Scott Derrikson, *Sinister* is the antithesis of disposable, 'only watch it for the kills' horror fare. Here the filmmakers establish their characters' relationships and motivations to a point where you've got to be a soulless bastard not to invest in their suffering. Much of this is down to Hawke's engrossing screen presence: yet while he carries the film (hey, he's in pretty much every frame), the supernatural villain of the piece – one Baghuul AKA Mr Boogie – proves to be the film's real scene-stealer. In fact, his brief-but-disorienting and spine-chilling appearances really are the stuff of nightmares.

It doesn't matter that *Sinister* is gore-lite, as a virtual absence of claret is permissible when a film is so eerily atmospheric and packed with countless jump-out-your-skin moments.

Billy Chainsaw

THE VILLAIN'S BRIEF-BUT-DISORIENTATING AND SPINE-CHILLING APPEARANCES ARE THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES

TOO FRUITY FOR APPLE!
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MORE DVDS THIS WAY!

STITCHES

Can't sleep, clown will eat me

OUT 11 FEBRUARY

WE DON'T THINK ANYONE IS going to feel sorry for clowns anytime soon. Horror films have already given us a wealth of reasons to be afeared of the madcap, long-shoed childrens' entertainers, and *Stitches* isn't going to help cure anybody's coulrophobia.

But while Richard 'Stitches' Grindle's make-up and costume are no more unnerving than other members of the creepy clown clan, he does have one slightly more sinister aspect to his schtick – he's dead. Stabbed through the eye at birthday bad boy Tom's party, Stitches is now waiting for his revenge.

Loathsome Tom and his friends live for years undamaged by the party mishap; but while they've all moved on, Tom has an uncomfortable feeling that the fateful party was never really over. And he's right.

Stitches' revenge six years later is a brutal yet hilarious showcase of how death can be dealt using clown props – so expect a comprehensive range of violent but oddly comedic dispatches as Stitches wreaks his revenge.

Comedian Ross Noble brings a dry intensity to the title role, and his antics as he take revenge on the rotters who killed him will leave you crying with laughter.

THE **BEST SHINY NEW DISCS** TO SQUANDER YOUR CASH ON

THE SQUEALER

BAYTOWN OUTLAWS

Oodie Oodie yum yum

OUT NOW

AN EVERYDAY TALE OF SOUTHERN folk this ain't. Directed by Barry Battles, this is a stylish addition to the grindhouse genre. Rednecks the Oodie brothers are keeping the crime rate down by offing crims for the local sheriff, and it's a mutually agreeable and beneficial relationship. But when they're commissioned to recover Celeste's (Eva Longoria) mentally-disabled and wheelchair-bound godson Rob from the clutches of her violent crimelord ex, Carlos (Billy Bob Thornton), the brothers find themselves in the midst of a maelstrom of wanton ultra-violence. Carlos is no walkover, you see – in fact, he's a player in the Texas underworld and able to deploy an un-PC cavalcade of ferocious enforcers, including sexy biker babes and psychotic Native Americans, to 'recover' Rob and his trust fund. In a parallel storyline, the government are also investigating the spate of Oodie-related mayhem, adding even more fireworks to the carnage.

HAWAIIAN PUNCH
IF GUNS ARE

ZOMBIE FLESH EATERS

A topless girl, a shark and a zombie fight. Underwater

OUT NOW

ONE OF THE CROP OF SEMINAL 1970s video nasties, Italian horror icon Lucio Fulci's *Zombie Flesh Eaters* has entered horror lore inaccurately as the sequel to George Romero's *Dawn Of The Dead*. But this gruesome film needs no context or comparison – it's a tour de force of the zombie genre.

As the flick opens a seemingly abandoned boat pitches up in a New York harbour, a zombie attacks some cops, the daughter of the boat's owner and a reporter take the boat back to the island where it came from, where they discover a voodoo curse... and you know the rest. Fulci's horror trademarks are all evident, particularly the shambling hordes of the dead and the extreme gore and violence. Some unforgettably vivid and disturbing moments, particularly the famous scene in which an eye is penetrated by a splinter, make this an important film in the flesh-eating canon.

REAL HORROR SHOW!

BILLY CHAINSAW

All the latest news from *Bizarre*'s free film club, CUT!

“Imagine sitting in a huge living room with a bunch of your mates watching films on a fuck-off screen, supping on several cold ones and not having some boring chin-scratcher shushing you to be quiet every time you get carried away at the on-screen shenanigans... well that, dear reader, is CUT!

“For well over two years now, courtesy of the greatest alternative magazine on the planet – in case you're having a major brain fart, we mean *Bizarre* – yours truly has been organising and hosting a free film club called CUT! A monthly affair, it takes place within the creepy confines of London's Horse Hospital, where (as the name suggests) ailing horses were once operated on. Because it's rumoured that some folk have been scared shitless by the sound of ghostly hooves, and one person even claims they photographed an equine apparition there, it's my guess that some of the nags didn't survive the surgeon's blade. What better place, then, to screen the most horrific, weird, violent and seriously arty movies available. We don't simply trot out easily available titles, though. Nosiree! Everything we screen is an exclusive preview of a yet-to-be released flick, and we throw in a free beverage (alcoholic or soft) to neck while you get your eyeballs assaulted and your mind blown.

“Enough of the history lesson, let's get this show on the road. When I got word out that CUT! 29's feature presentation was the shamelessly trashy and gory as hell *Wrong Turn 5*, fans of the mutant hillbilly franchise went nuttier than squirrel shit! And it was a response echoed to the max when they actually showed up and watched the film.

“While the original *Wrong Turn* delivered the high-tension goods, here the thrill factor has been replaced by OTT, gross-out murders – hey, sometimes seeing dumbass individuals get mercilessly wasted is all a CUT! audience needs to feel they've had a good night out! Heading up the cast is genre legend Doug Bradley (Pinhead from the *Hellraiser* flicks) who plays the murderous father figure to the muties. When he detours a bunch of mates en route to a rock festival in the mountains, his actions see him and the kids incarcerated, leaving his cannibalistic brethren baying for blood and eager to bust him out – by any means necessary.

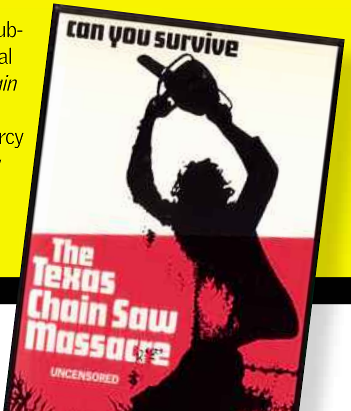
“The subsequent *Assault On Precinct 13* influenced scenario is a mad mix of black comedy (mainly down to the sheer goofiness of the hideous hillbillies) and an unrelenting slasher flick. Writer / director Declan O'Brien (back for his third consecutive flick in the franchise) does exactly what's expected of him: flushes narrative down the toilet and runs hell for leather with Grand Guignol set pieces. Okay, original it ain't, but there's so much sex, blood and entrails on display, you'll be hooked and hollering to the bitter end.”

Wrong Turn 5 is out on DVD on 28 January

THIS MONTH: *WRONG TURN 5*

IF YOU LIKE *WRONG TURN 5* YOU MIGHT LIKE *THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE (1974)*

When it comes to inbred horror there's no greater example of the sub-genre than Tobe Hooper's groundbreaking and one-time controversial (it was banned outright in the UK for donkey's years) *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*. Employing a faux-documentary feel, Hooper and co-writer Kim Henkel land a bunch of road-tripping teens at the mercy of a crazed family of cannibals. Not only is it a suspenseful and truly terrifying watch, but it also stars horrordom's greatest icon – the chainsaw-wielding, human-flesh-wearing Leatherface. Indeed, we consider this classic movie to be any gorehound's rite of passage.



WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre*'s Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

BIZARRE presents

CUT!

A FREE MONTHLY FILM CLUB FROM THE GREATEST MAGAZINE ON EARTH!

WHEN?

THURS 21 FEBRUARY 2013
7.30PM – 10.30PM
(FILM STARTS AT 8PM SHARP)

WHERE?

THE HORSE HOSPITAL,
COLONNADE, LONDON WC1N 1JD
NEAREST TUBE RUSSELL SQUARE

COMMUNITY

FREE!

ENTRY WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED
TO GET ON THE GUESTLIST AND BE GUARANTEED ENTRY, YOU MUST EMAIL **BILLYCHAINSAW@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM**

THERE WILL BE SEATS ON THE NIGHT, BUT THESE WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. **DON'T BE LATE!**

HOSTED BY
BILLY CHAINSAW
***BIZARRE* FILM EDITOR**

"A TERRIFYING, TENSION-PACKED SLICE OF HOODIE-HORROR
★★★★

THE HORROR IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK
COMMUNITY

DVD RELEASE DATE:
25 FEBRUARY 2013
SEE IT FIRST AT CUT!

SEE *BIZARRE*'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

ESBEN AND THE WITCH

'Gothic' art-indie trio return with tales of doppelgängers and evocations of sultry sunsets

WASH THE SINS NOT ONLY THE FACE

OUT NOW

Named after a Danish fairy tale where a gluttonous hag oven-roasts kidnapped kiddies, Brighton's Esben And The Witch bagged widespread plaudits for their 2011 debut *Violet Cries*. Rachel Davies' semi-choir-girl howling pervaded a spectral realm of icy guitars and ritualistic percussion. *WTSNOTF* is an obvious but welcome progression, using brooding hooks and delicate melodies to ramp up the room thermometer from minus-20 to just above zero. We guess this means you can chuck away that awful sweater Aunt Agatha bought you for Chrimbo.

Stephen Daultrey

PICTURE: JONATHAN HYDE

Q&A RACHEL DAVIES – SINGER

Is it a seasonal thing that you release your albums in January?
No, we thought it would be appropriate to release *Violet Cries* in autumn or winter. With this one, it just so happened that it was January.

***Violet Cries* was very icescapey and challenging. *Wash The Sins Not Only The Face* feels more structured and accessible...**
We wanted to create songs with a strong identity and which could stand on their own. The songs on the first record had already existed for a while. Here, all three of us went to a cottage and wrote the whole thing, challenging ourselves to step out of our comfort zone and create things a bit more 'hooky' and focus more on melody.

It's still sounds 'gothic' – as in the adjective, not the genre. Are you exploring historical and macabre themes with the lyrics?
I can't disclose too much because it's wonderful when people attribute their own experiences to lyrics. But by touring, we've been really lucky to explore some incredible places and spend time looking out of windows and contemplating life. We came up with the idea of seeing your double at the side of the road and imagined different worlds and what it would be like to explore them.

> "WE WANTED SONGS WITH A STRONG IDENTITY"

You mean like doppelgängers?
There's tons of mythology surrounding doppelgängers. They tend to be quite malevolent and mischievous forces, but are also used as a vessel to reflect yourself and open your mind to things you aren't looking to see. By way of research, I read *The Double* by José Saramago, which is a contemporary novel about a man who meets his doppelgänger, and *Despair* by Vladimir Nabokov. But we branched beyond personal doubles, and looked at double planets and neighbouring worlds. The recent Lars von Trier film *Melancholia*, which I loved, is about another planet like Earth heading towards our one.

There's a song called 'Despair' on the new album, presumably inspired by Nabokov's book?
Yes, through sheer coincidence, I was reading it at the time that we were exploring these ideas. I just saw this book in a store with an amazing cover, and when I read it, it happened to be about a man meeting someone he perceives to be his double. Fate? I'd like to think so.

Can you tell us about the track 'Fall Of Glorieta Mountain'? That song, with its twilight guitar ambience, was a real highlight for me.
I think it's the most emotional song on the record. It was conceived by driving through the desert in New Mexico at night. We were listening to Godspeed You! Black Emperor and watching this insanely beautiful sunset. We had a lot of time to listen to music and stare at the scenery, and that was a feeling we wanted to invoke in that song.

I listened to *Violet Cries* on an empty train through the Suffolk countryside, mid-winter, the fields caked in snow. They complemented each other perfectly.
That's amazing if we can make people evoke images of forests, icescapes, mountains or barren deserts. There are certain bands we listen to who achieve that, such as Yellow Swans, Godspeed and Barn Owl. It's a difficult task, but it's what we try to do.

Much has been made of your fascination for art. What paintings do you have on your walls at home?
At my house, there's an amazing Gustave Doré, who did a lot of illustrations for Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which I think would make amazing tattoos. There's Salvador Dalí too, who was a big influence on the new record, as well as the surrealist film directors, such as Luis Buñuel, who created these dream-like visions, which are evocative, bizarre and rich. *Violet Cries* was dense and dark, and inspired by painters like Francis Bacon. *Wash The Sins...* sounds less claustrophobic.

***Bizarre* described your vocals on *Violet Cries* as Florence Welch's dead imaginary sister caterwauling out from the netherworld. In retrospect, that seems naive. Did that piss you off?**
[Laughs] If someone wants to compare us to something then that's up to them because that's what they're hearing, but Florence And The Machine isn't music that I'd listen to. And I don't think I do sound like her. I think it's just the English accent.

The first track on the new album is called 'Iceland Spar'. That's not about two supermarkets is it?
No, we didn't even notice that until someone else brought it up after it had been written. Iceland spar is a type of mineral. That's all I'm saying, people should research it for themselves.

I'm glad you said that, otherwise it really shatters the delicate imagery
Yes, I don't think we'll ever be writing about corporate supermarket chains.

MORE NEW SHIT!

Other *Bizarre* must-hears

THE BLACKOUT
START THE PARTY

THE BLACKOUT
START THE PARTY

OUT NOW

Welsh rockers The Blackout have made one of those fun, get-up-and-go pop-punk albums about partying and living life to the max, with jubilant song titles like 'Start The Party' and 'Sleep When You're Dead'. However, given that this particular writer is penning this review in his dressing gown at 4:15pm on a Tuesday should strike everyone as disturbingly ironic. And, er, sad...

CULT OF LUNA
VERTIKAL

OUT 28 JAN

While the exotic space-synth that opens the Swedish post-metallers sixth album sounds like something from the *Blade Runner* soundtrack, it's actually the German Expressionist sci-fi classic *Metropolis* (1927) that provides its inspiration. The results are an often-gruelling transhumanist battle between planet-crushing rhythms, eerie factory ambience and stargazery guitar.

HATEBREED
THE DIVINITY OF PURPOSE

OUT 28 JAN

Probably one of the most aptly named bands in the history of rock music, listening to Hatebreed just makes you want to SMASH SHIT UP. After 2009's eponymous *Hatebreed*, this outing takes a time-trip back to 1995 for a back-to-basics brutality. 'Indivisible' and 'Time To Murder It' are mosh pit anthems that could sink a freight liner.

ANCIENT VVISDOM
DEATHLIKE

ANCIENT VVISDOM

OUT 5 FEB

If it weren't for us previously covering Ancient VVisdom for their astounding 2011 debut *A Godlike Inferno*, we'd naively mistake the Texans' ethereal acoustic doominess as something romantic to play to a miserable loved one, rather than the occult-addled blasphemy it really is. How a songs as melodically exquisite as its title track and 'Here Is The Grave' could nod to Beelzebub is quite frankly, petrifying.

MUSIC THE BEST NEW SOUNDS REVERBERATING TOWARDS YOU

DROPKICK MURPHYS

Pour us a large one, Boston's rowdiest rabble are back in town

Q&A JAMES LYNCH – GUITARIST

So you've still got the bagpipes and tin whistles. What other unusual instruments do you have on the new album?
The most recent addition is the mandola, which is a cross between a mandolin and a bouzouki. Jeff (DaRosa – multi-instrumentalist) had to learn it, like he did with all our crazy instruments. He'd never played any of them before he joined us. I just phoned him up one day and said, "Hey, do you wanna learn some weird instruments?"

> "IT'S LIKE BALLET, YOU DANCE UPON THAT VERY FINE LINE"

St Patrick's Day isn't far off (17 March). What are those celebrations usually like for the band at home?
It's an absolute madhouse in Boston, which is only magnified by our presence. We'll usually play a whole week of shows, and it's craziness from start to finish.

How about sharing a wild St Patrick's Day tale...
Well, we're mostly on tour. Any stories usually involve my family and are independent of the shows, but I don't want to air their dirty laundry in public.

Don't you and the rest of the band get hammered?
Everyone at our shows does and they spend the whole time trying to buy us drinks, before realising that we still have seven shows to play after the one they're at.

How very professional. So you never play drunk at all?
Yeah, I still do. It's evolution, mate.

Is there ever a point where you're too pissed to play?
There's definitely a line. It's like a ballet. You have to dance upon that very fine line, and there's a point where it's like playing guitar with boxing gloves on. Unfortunately, I've been there, but hopefully not again in the future.

Who's the best drinker in the band?
I'd have to pat myself on the back and say me. It's more of a curse than anything. People who drink don't keep track of how much they drink.

Do you ever have Dropkick Murphys drink-offs?
No, and that's the reason why we're still all on this side of the grass.

I read an old interview with you in *Modern Drunkard*. What a great concept for a magazine...
That magazine is genius! You can easily take something like that and make it a joke, but they take it as seriously as you possibly can with a magazine called *Modern Drunkard*. I have a subscription. and I'm still entertained by it. They'll do articles on famous drunks and bar etiquette, stuff people don't really think about.

Who's your favourite famous drunk of all time?
Ernest Hemingway. He had his head on his shoulders about it. He knew he was a drunk.

Away from alcohol, you're covered in ink. What's your coolest tatts?
I love all of them. I was very self-conscious as a kid, so with every new tatt, my mum gets a little more upset, and I feel a little more comfortable in my own skin. I'm actually heading home now to get another piece.

Who does your inking?
My wife owns a shop, so I get most of the stuff done there, but I've had ink from all over the world. I always jump in wherever I can.

Any in the UK?
Not yet, but I'm looking forward to it.

SIGNED AND SEALED IN BLOOD

OUT NOW

There are just some things you never do. Snort live cockroaches. Holiday in Luton. And listen to Dropkick Murphys stone sober. The Celtic punks, hailing from America's Boston, have been on a rise to stardom over the last 15-years, befriending Springsteen and infiltrating Scorsese soundtracks. Their newest collection of rousing, riveting singalongs typically serves its truest purpose while swilling Guinness inside a pub packed with merry folk.

BUCKCHERRY

Repent your sins with LA's hardest rockers!

Q&A JOSH TODD – SINGER

Your new album, *Confessions*, is based around the Seven Deadly Sins. How did that come about?
Yeah, Keith (Nelson – guitar) and I tossed the idea around for years, and it was time to do it. I know it's been done in the past, but it's our take, and it's been a lot of fun writing about those things as a lyricist.

So who's the biggest sinner in the band? It's confession time…
We've all been big sinners. At the moment, it's probably Jimmy (Ashhurst – bass). But I'm an obsessive-compulsive person and I've had my run-ins with drugs and alcohol. We've written a short film to go with the record, which is based on me as a young person and how I acted out the Seven Deadly Sins. We're trying to get funding at the moment.

If you had to attribute a different sin to each member of the band, what would you pick?
Lust would be me because I have a dirty mind, and everyone else in the band would agree with that. Gluttony would be Stevie D (guitar) because he likes to overindulge in sugar. Pride would be Keith. Wrath would be Jimmy, because I think he's got stuff inside him which he struggles with. And Envy would be Xavier (Muriel – drums).

I thought Jimmy might be Lust because he contributed advice to the book *Sex Tips From Rockstars*.
Oh yeah, he did. Maybe I'll take Pride because 'Pride' is one of my favourite songs on the record. It's off the beaten path for us, and I dig it.

You're famous for your tatts. Are you still getting inked?
I wanted to sleeve-up my legs, but all my extra money is currently going into go-kart racing, which I've been doing for the last four years. It's dangerous, but you gotta do what you love! I had a big crash in my last race at 50mph, but I wasn't hurt and finished in the top five.

What do the other drivers think when they find out they're going up against the singer from Buckcherry?
It's not good for me. They try to fuck with me on the track so that they can wreck the guy from Buckcherry, but they don't succeed that often.

What are your main goals for the band, going into 2013?
I want 'Gluttony' to be a Top 5 single on radio, for *Confessions* to be a smash, and to build the European market. It's been hard to get back to Europe all the time and a lot of things have got screwed up with record labels over the years. It's been a thorn in the side for us, so that's a big goal.

Finally, what's your yuckiest death scene in the movie *Seven*?
That would have to be Gluttony where the guy ate himself to death. Yeah, that was pretty gnarly.

> "I'VE HAD MY RUN-INS WITH DRUGS AND ALCOHOL"

CONFESSIONS

Buckcherry
Confessions

OUT 19 FEBRUARY

We love bands that don't buckle to trends, and Buckcherry have been doing their dirty rawk thing since 1995 without giving a fuck about anything else. Their sixth studio album is a gluttonous meat-pile of melancholic verses strutting out into wild choruses, all tailor-made for *Guitar Hero* videogames. 'The Truth' sails dangerously close to new age Aerosmith balladry, but 'Envy' and 'Nothing Left But Tears' have balls the size of watermelons. **Stephen Daultrey**

ALIENS COLONIAL MARINES

The sum of all fears

OUT 12 FEBRUARY
XBOX 360, PS3, PC, WII U

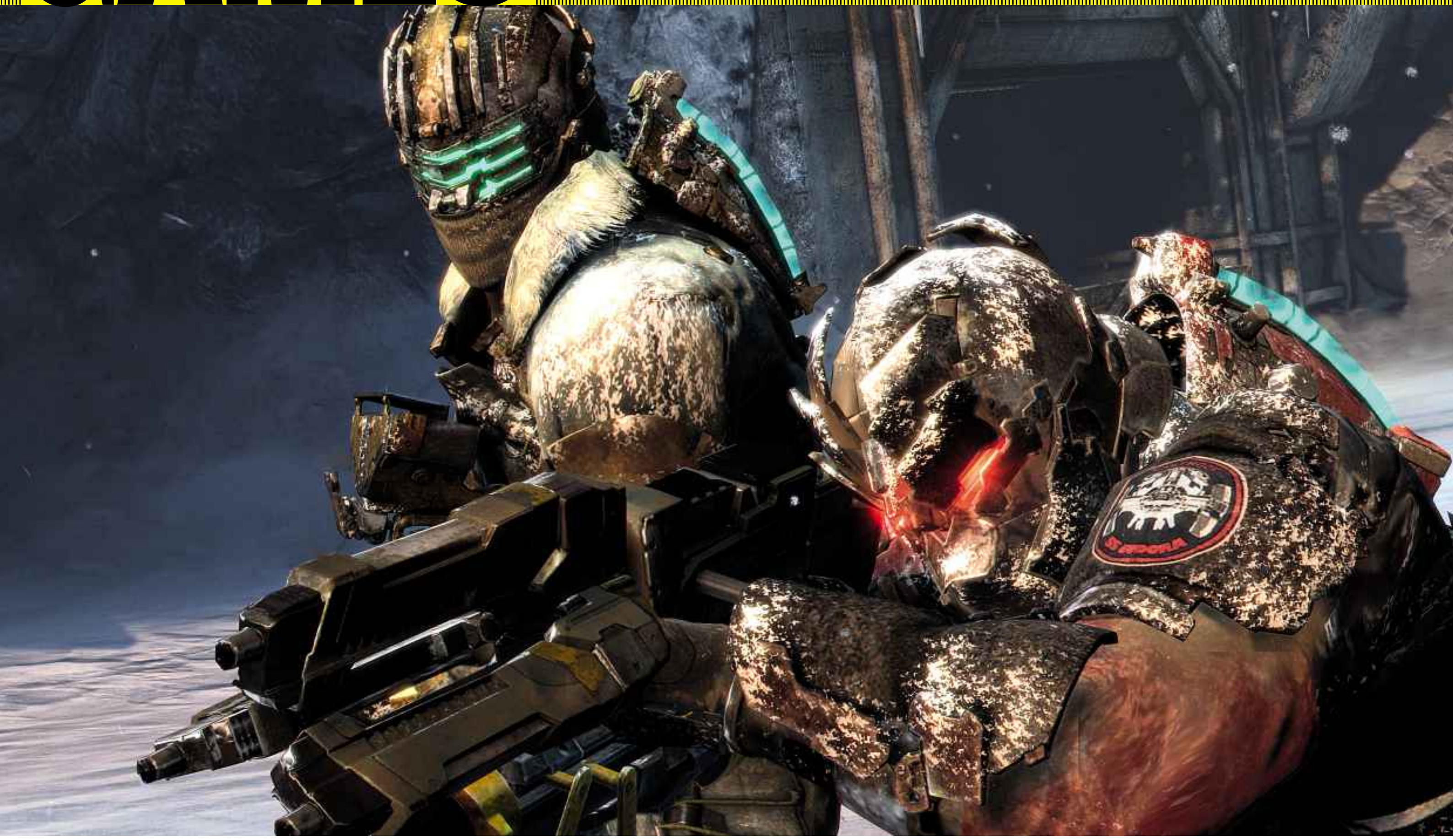
THIS OFFICIAL VIDEOGAME addition to the *Alien* franchise spearheaded by Ridley Scott and James Cameron needs to be special to survive in a marketplace already full brim with first-person shooters... and it is!

As an extension of the classic movies, you probably already know how *Aliens: Colonial Marines* is going to play out. But instead of sitting on your settee and crapping your pants as Ripley and her chums are stalked around a deserted spaceship, the action revolves around you and a squad of ass-kicking space soldiers. Picking up after the action of the movie *Alien 3*, players are thrust straight into terrifying combat against the lurking, scuttling, acid-blooded xenomorphs; first on the seemingly abandoned USS Sulaco, and then on the planet LV-426 and the devastated Hadley's Hope colonial station.

Aliens: Colonial Marines' visuals are stunningly authentic, and players can use all the iconic weapons from the movies, including flamethrowers, pulse rifles and robotic sentry turrets. You can also seal doors shut using a welding torch, and deploy the tension-building motion trackers to hunt down the ever-present alien threat. And while the shooting is brilliant and compelling, it's the creeping fear of things lurking in the dark – the hidden menace that bursts terrifyingly to life from all angles – that makes for immersive and compelling gunplay.

Play in single-player, cooperative and competitive multi-player modes against – or even *as* – the universe's most savage and resourceful killers... we dare you!

MORE GAMES THIS WAY!



DEAD SPACE 3

Ice, ice baby!

OUT 8 FEBRUARY, **XBOX 360, PS3, PC**

WHEN YOU NEED TO RID A FROZEN planet of flesh-craving, reanimated human corpses, who's the best man for the job? Isaac Clarke, of course! In this third entry in the creepy *Dead Space* series, your mission is to seek out the source of the virus that's been relentlessly spawning the dreaded Necromorphs. New for this three-quel is the drop-in, drop-out cooperative mode, where a second player can take control of a new character named Sergeant John Carver. There's also new combat moves that make Isaac more agile, a host of new enemies, and a tense, foreboding atmosphere that's a more effective bowel-loosener than Senokot.

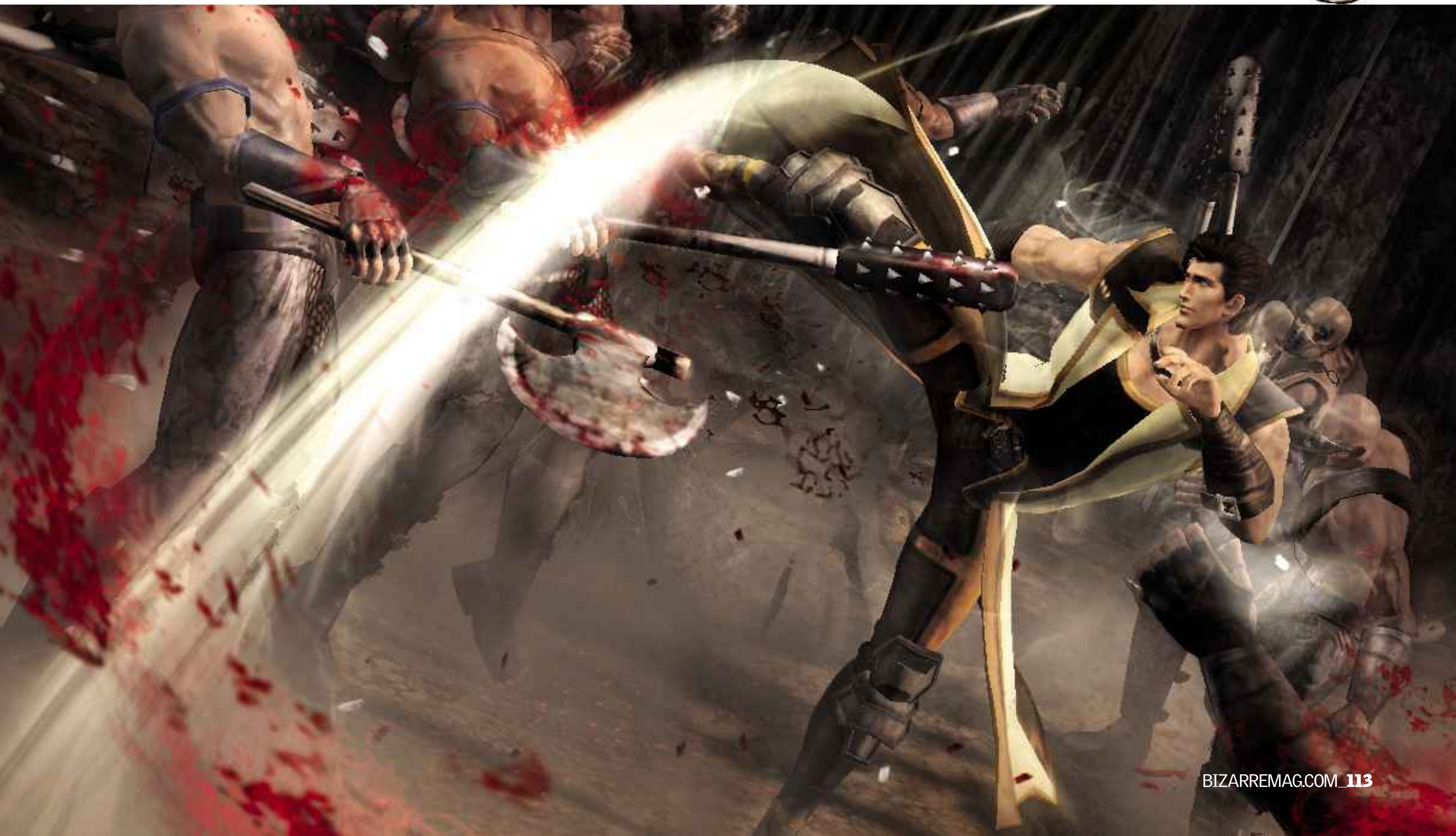
FIST OF THE NORTH STAR KEN'S RAGE 2

Everything you do makes me furious with you

OUT 1 FEBRUARY, **XBOX 360, PS3**

BASED ON THE ICONIC MANGA series, *Fist Of The North Star: Ken's Rage 2* is a supercharged follow-up to the violent 2010 gore-fest.

As you'd expect, this latest addition to the hardcore beat 'em up series includes a host of new playable characters in its 20+ roster, and countless fresh bone-crunching, head-popping moves to master. There's also a new Legend mode to get to grips with, which draws on events and characters from the entire *Fist Of The North Star* manga storyline, a Dream mode that features original stories for the fighters, and brutal cooperative and versus game modes. And, to keep you hooked, a variety of new character costumes and fighting stages will be available to download after the game launches.



UNEARTHING

The Watchmen legend pays homage to his mentor

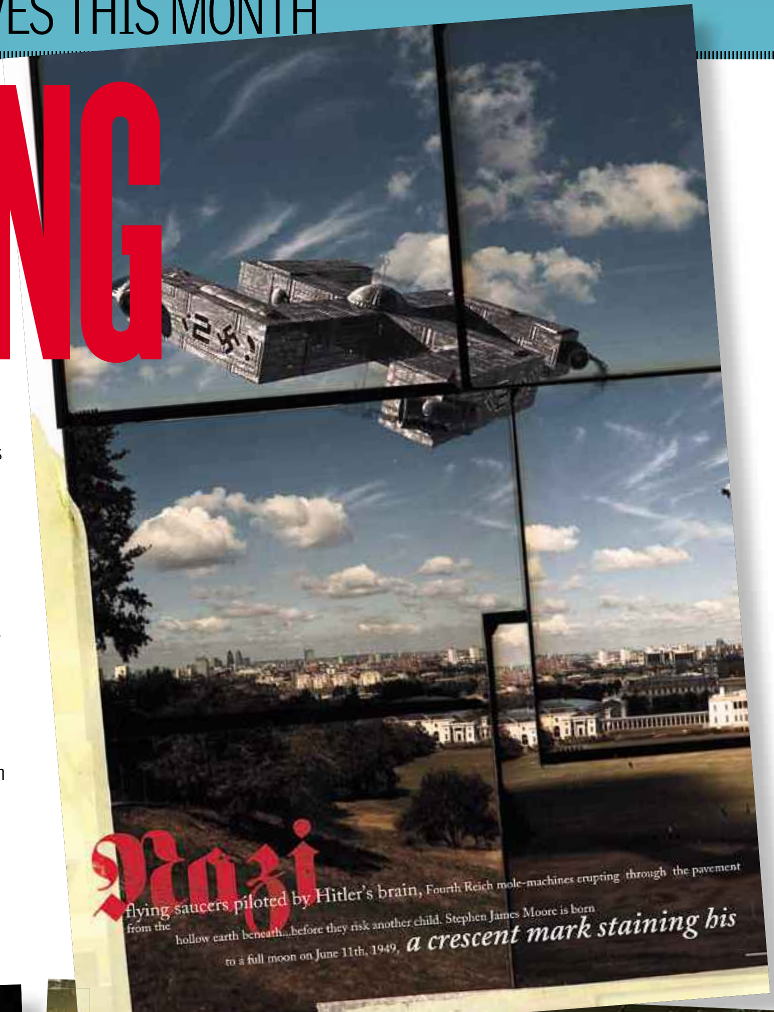
ALAN MOORE / MITCH JENKINS
OUT NOW

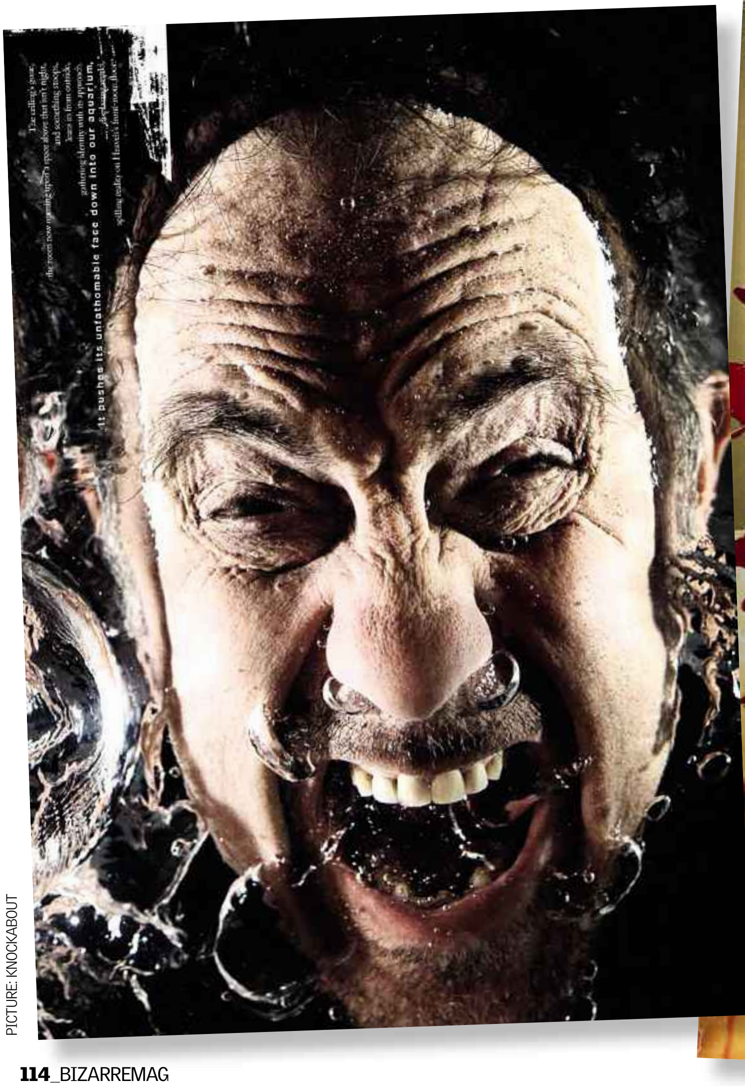
Unearth-ing

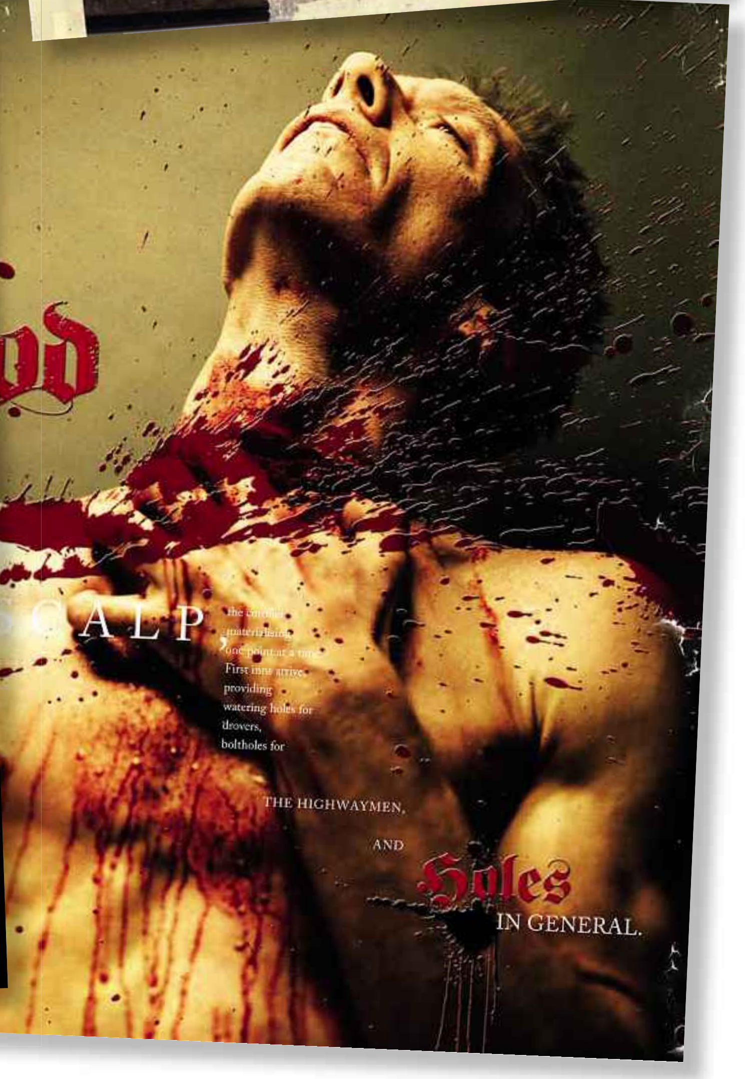
UNEARTHING is Alan Moore's ambitious biography (of sorts) and ode to his lifelong friend, mentor and fellow comics writer / occultist, Steve Moore, who not only penned tales for *2000 AD* and Marvel (including stories for Nick Fury and Hulk), he also once edited *Bizarre*'s paranormal sister publication, the almost legendary *Fortean Times*.

Steve Moore is an interesting character, as well as a man of many fiendish talents: according to interviews with Alan, Steve (who isn't related) has inhabited the same house in Shooter's Hill, South London, for his entire earth years and sleeps inches from the very spot where he was born 63 years ago. He once bought a Chinese coin sword for a magic ritual in the late 1970s, which he subsequently performed, and it is from that one action that the idea for this project was apparently borne.

Previously performed as a live spoken word thing that was complemented by a soundtrack featuring Faith No More's Mike Patton and Mogwai's Stuart Braithwaite, this latest incarnation takes on a new twist, courtesy of the vibrant photography of Mitch Jenkins. It's completely *out there*, for sure, but fans of South East London will be especially enamoured.


Nazi
flying saucers piloted by Hitler's brain, Fourth Reich mole-machines erupting through the pavement
from the
hollow earth beneath...before they risk another child. Stephen James Moore is born
to a full moon on June 11th, 1949, a crescent mark staining his


it pushes its unfathomable face down into our aquarium,


ALP
First inns arrive,
providing
watering holes for
drovers,
boltholes for
THE HIGHWAYMEN,
AND
Holes
IN GENERAL.

PICTURE: KNOCKABOUT

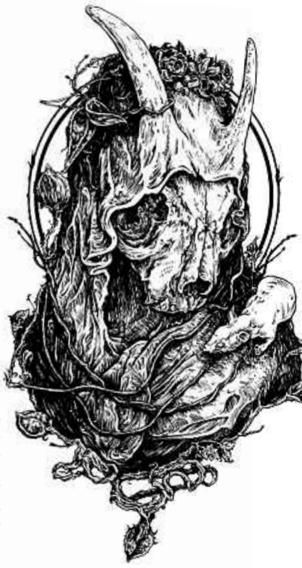
AMIGOS DE LOS MUERTOS

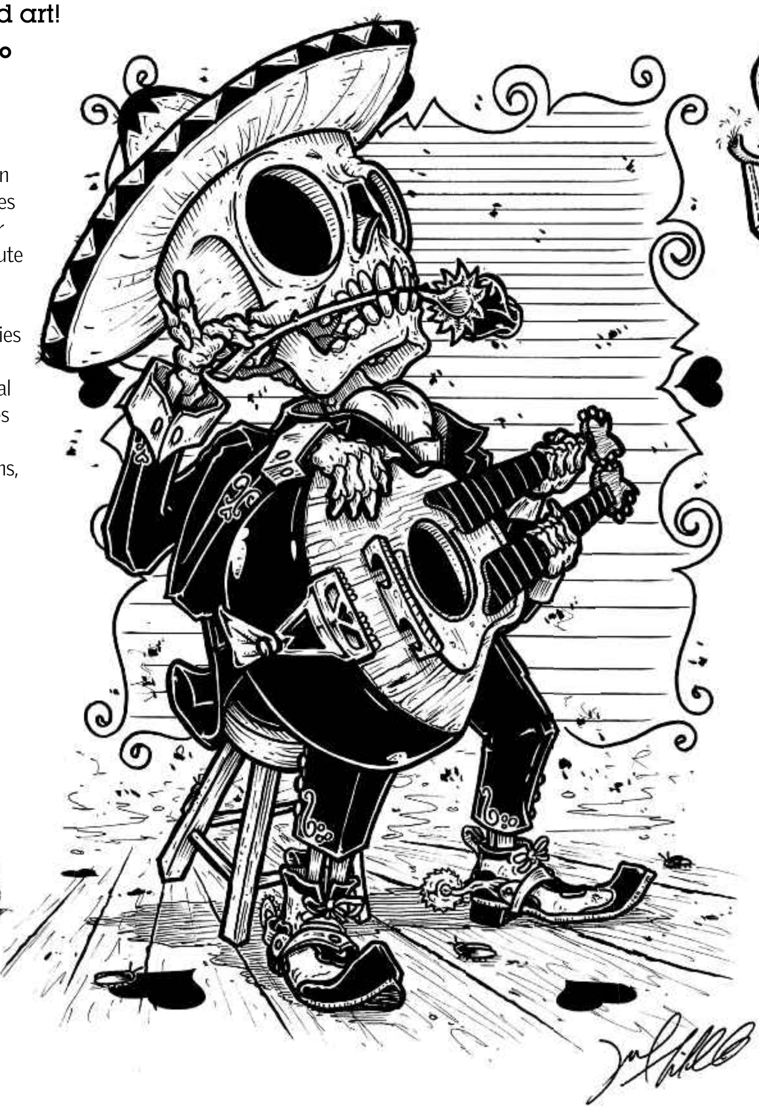
Ay caramba, dead good art!

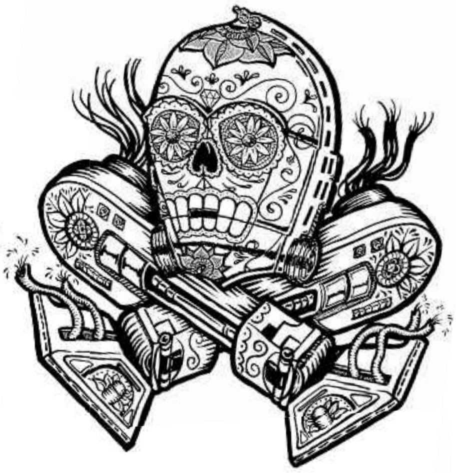
JERAL TIDWELL, ANGRYBLUE, ROBERTO JARAS LIRA & DAVID LOZEAU
OUT NOW

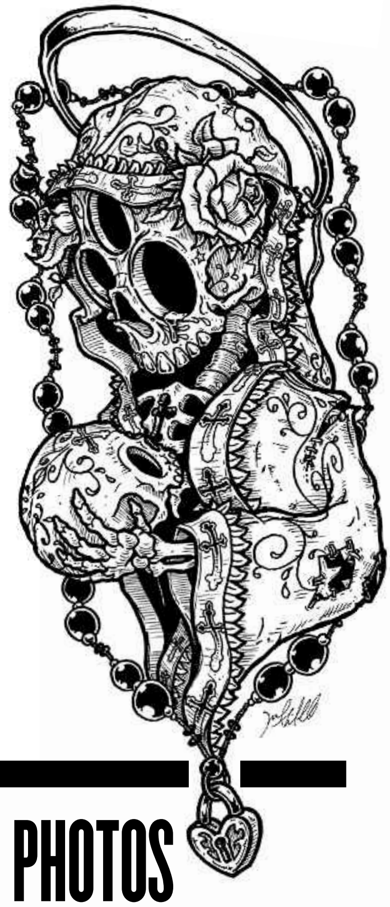
Amigos de los Muertos

Translating to 'Friends Of The Dead', this collection of natty doodles sees four artists tip their mighty pens in tribute to Mexico's Day Of The Dead celebrations, conjuring up a monochrome cast of Latino zombies and mariachi skeletons. The lack of colour is ironic given that the festival is one of the most vibrant spectacles on earth, but if you ever needed inspiration for some new tatt designs, you'll be dead chuffed with this.









PICTURES: LAST GASP

ADULT MOVIE SUPERSTARS VOLUME TWO: EUROZONE PHOTOS

Naked retro women galore

JACK HUNTER
OUT NOW

TOO FRUITY FOR APPLE!
BIZARREMAG.COM

Some books are filled with eloquent prose, deep subtexts and brain-zapping philosophy that challenge your very outlook on life. Others are just filled with stylised grot shots of naked women! Featuring pics of four Euro filth actresses from the 1970s – Laura Gemser, Christian Lindberg, Brigitte Lahaie and Brigitte Maier – it's an enticing 'read' for fans of, ahem, retro muff. Just don't expect many words. You won't find them.

TOO FRUITY FOR APPLE!
BIZARREMAG.COM

TOO FRUITY FOR APPLE!
BIZARREMAG.COM

TOO FRUITY FOR APPLE!
BIZARREMAG.COM

PICTURES: CREATION / WET ANGEL BOOKS

THE SUFFERING AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN AMERICA

One couple's madcap ride to document America leading up to 2008 election

SHANE AND AMY BUGBEE
OUT NOW

THE SUFFERING AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN AMERICA

WHEN ECCENTRIC married couple Shane and Amy Bugbee got bombed out of a small town in Minnesota in 2007, they didn't muck about: they went on a year-long quest round the grand old US of A with fuck all money, a dog and a turtle called Myrtle (what else?) in a converted pickle bucket, and decided to document an alternative perspective of their hallowed nation, prying into America's underbelly with a similar sort of leftfield inquisitiveness that might have begat Michael Moore or Hunter S Thompson.

> THEY CAME INTO CONTACT WITH MADMEN, INTELLECTUALS, AND SCANTILY CLAD LADIES

They came into contact with madmen, penniless intellectuals and scantily-clad ladies at horror festivals. They interviewed renowned *Bizarre* favourites such as Possessed singer Jeff Becerra, and Joel-Peter Witkin (photographer of corpses and 'freaks'). They filmed 'satanic' fetish performer Szandora LaVey making out with another girl in the loos. They discussed smack and spirituality with burlesque performers and scholars. They nearly froze to death surrounded by coyotes. They bummed around with randoms. They explored class and religion. They said "America, wtf?" And got wasted.

365 days, 10,000 photos and 1,000-hours of video footage are condensed into a kind of postmodern scrapbook: holiday snaps, anecdotes and conversation scripts. It's funny, enlightening and sad to read or watch. Worth checking out, especially for the *very* limited editions.

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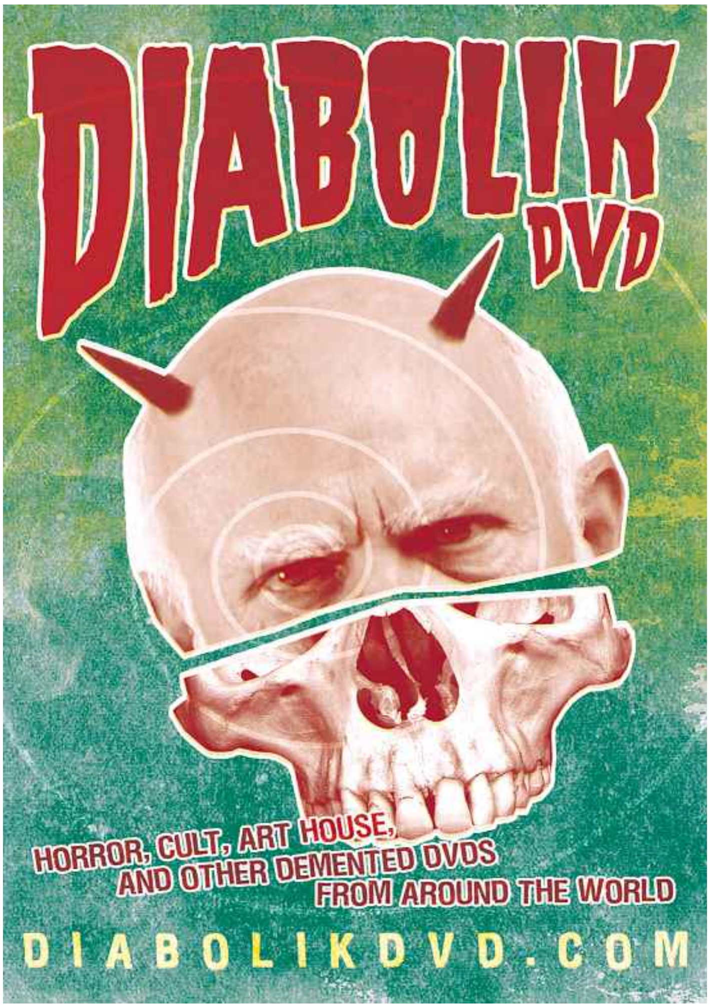

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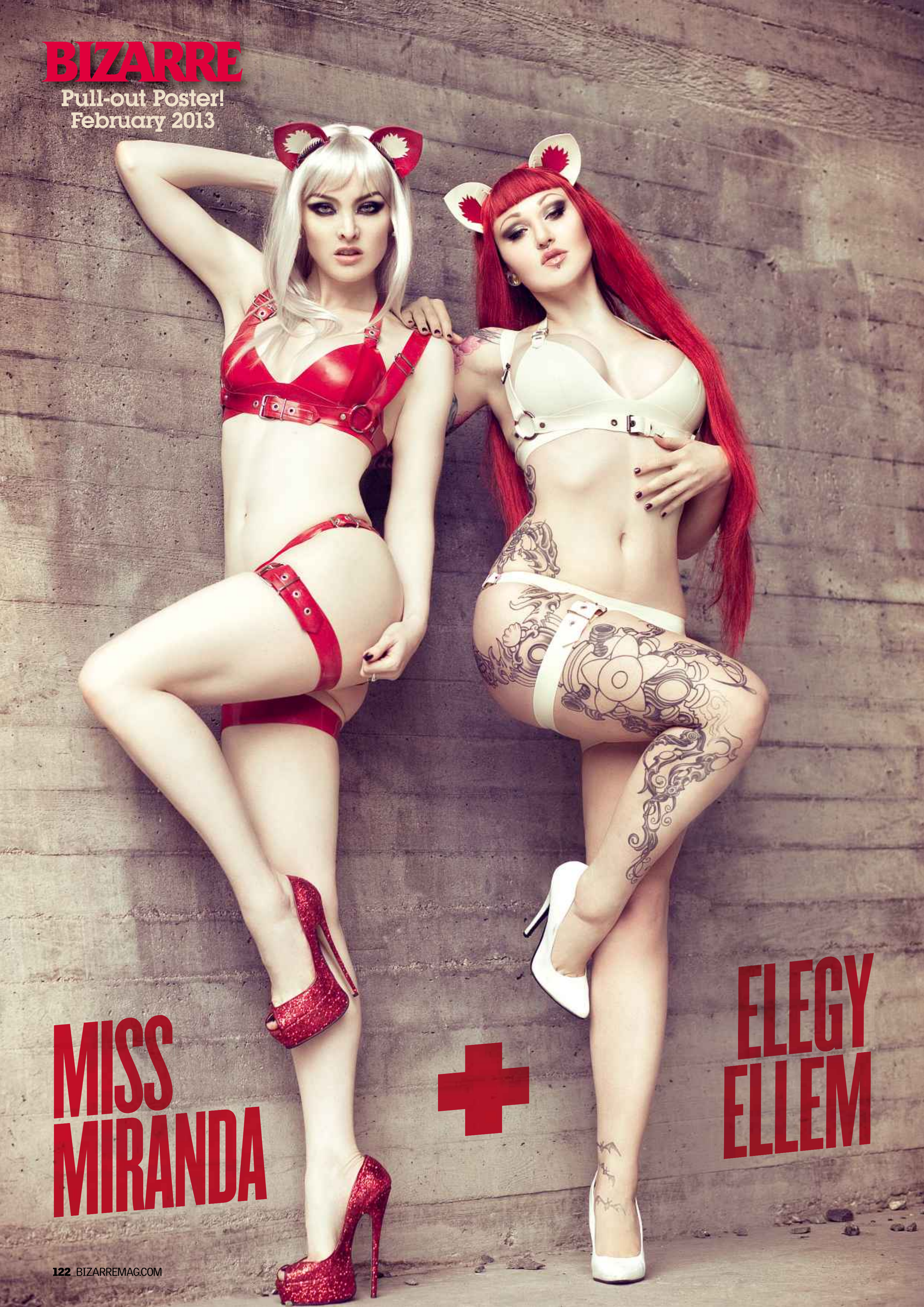

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